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No. 1

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

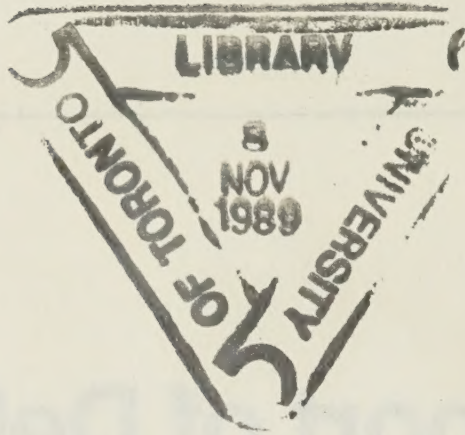
First Session, 34th Parliament

Tuesday, November 3, 1987

Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer

Clerk of the House: Claude L. DesRosiers

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, November 3, 1987

The First Session of the 34th Parliament of the province of Ontario opened at 3 p.m. for the dispatch of business pursuant to a proclamation of the Honourable Lincoln M. Alexander, Lieutenant Governor of the province.

The Honourable the Lieutenant Governor, having entered the chamber, took his seat upon the throne.

Hon. Mr. Alexander: Pray be seated.

Hon. Mr. Conway: I am commanded by His Honour the Lieutenant Governor to state that he does not see fit to declare the causes of the summoning of the present Legislature of this province until a Speaker of this House shall have been chosen according to law; but today, at a subsequent hour, His Honour will declare the causes of the calling of this Legislature.

The Honourable the Lieutenant Governor was pleased to retire from the chamber.

ELECTION OF SPEAKER

Clerk of the House: Members of the Legislative Assembly, it is my duty to call upon you to elect one of your number to preside over your deliberations as Speaker.

Hon. Mr. Peterson moved, seconded by Mr. B. Rae, that the member for the electoral district of Perth (Mr. Edighoffer) be the Speaker of this House.

Clerk of the House: Are there any further nominations? There being no further nominations, I declare the nominations closed and the Honourable Hugh Alden Edighoffer to be Speaker of this House.

Mr. Speaker entered the chamber and took the chair.

Mr. Speaker: Honourable members, please accept my humble thanks for the honour and the responsibility you have given me today. I am grateful to you, Mr. Premier (Mr. Peterson) and to the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. B. Rae) for moving and seconding my nomination and, of course, for the safe passage you have given me through the chamber to this dais. My thanks also to the honourable members for the confidence you have expressed in me by allowing me to continue to serve this House as Speaker.

As your Speaker, I pledge to be mindful of the rights and privileges of each one of you and, as well, to make certain that all members have the opportunity to express their views and to be heard.

In a few moments I will, on your behalf, address His Honour the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario with the traditional words which have been used in this House and in other parliaments for centuries. Those words will help to reassert the rights of the representatives of the people of Ontario.

I hope I am not too much of a dreamer to ask for your assistance and co-operation. I very much appreciated the support given to me during the last parliament. As we commence this 34th Parliament, I promise to do my best to serve you with fairness, firmness and impartiality. Thank you very much.

This House will now adjourn during pleasure.

The Honourable the Lieutenant Governor re-entered the chamber and took his seat upon the throne.

Hon. Mr. Alexander: Pray be seated.

Mr. Speaker: May it please Your Honour, the Legislative Assembly has elected me as their Speaker, though I am but little able to fulfil the important duties thus assigned to me. If, in the performance of those duties, I should at any time fall into error, I pray that the fault may be imputed to me and not to the assembly whose servant I am and who, through me, the better to enable them to discharge their duty to their Queen and country, hereby claim all their undoubted rights and privileges, especially that they may have freedom of speech in their debates, access to your person at all reasonable times and that their proceedings may receive from you the most favourable consideration.

1510

Hon. Mr. Conway: I am commanded by the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor to declare to you that he freely confides in the duty and attachment of the assembly to Her Majesty's person and government and, not doubting that the proceedings will be conducted with wisdom, temperance and prudence, he grants and upon all occasions will recognize and allow the constitu-

tional privileges. I am commanded also to assure you that the assembly shall have ready access to His Honour upon all suitable occasions and that their proceedings, as well as your words and actions, will constantly receive from him the most favourable construction.

The Honourable the Lieutenant Governor was pleased to open the session with the following gracious speech.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

Hon. Mr. Alexander: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly, I have the honour of welcoming you to the opening of the First Session of the 34th Parliament of Ontario.

It gives me particular pleasure to welcome those of you who are sitting as members of this Legislature for the first time.

As representatives of the people of Ontario, you will be provided with an unparalleled opportunity to tackle many of our province's most urgent priorities and convert challenges into achievements.

Every member of this Legislature will be afforded the opportunity to participate in developing long-term solutions to long-standing problems and innovative approaches to emerging demands.

Ontario's economy is fundamentally strong and diversified. Over the past few years, our economic performance has been impressive, exceeding that of our major competitors.

This underlying momentum will stand us in good stead in the years ahead.

At the same time, we recognize that we are not immune to global economic pressures and conditions. The recent volatility in stock markets around the world serves as a strong reminder of the new economic challenges that confront all countries.

My government will meet its commitments to the people of Ontario within a framework of fiscal responsibility. A solid record of economic stewardship will preserve Ontario's options for the future.

We will continue to follow the directions set forth in the previous two throne speeches. We will pursue our agenda for action with vigour.

Tout en respectant nos obligations envers les contribuables, nous devons maintenir et consolider notre réseau de programmes et services communautaires.

In the midst of an information society where the need for literacy, mathematics, science and computer skills are more important than ever, we

must set new standards of achievement for our children.

In the midst of a chronic housing shortage, we must increase the supply of affordable housing.

In the midst of an ageing population and rapid increases in the cost of health care delivery, we must develop a new strategy for healthy living.

In the midst of a heightened need for prudent management and improved productivity, we must ensure that strict environmental safeguards and health and safety protection in the workplace are essential components of economic development.

In the midst of a renewed commitment to strengthening our international competitiveness, we must ensure that all Ontarians—women, visible minorities, natives, the disabled—are included in our effort to compete.

In the midst of continuing regional disparities within the province, we must increase our emphasis on economic development in northern and eastern Ontario.

In the midst of sustained global pressure affecting the agriculture sector, we must maintain a commitment to develop innovative approaches to assisting Ontario farmers.

In the face of new economic realities, we must pay particular attention to our trading relationships with other countries.

We have not yet seen the final text of a trade agreement between Canada and the United States, despite a commitment on October 6 that such a text would be available within three weeks.

On the basis of a preliminary agreement, however, it is the view of my government that as a country we have given up far more than we have gained. The agreement does not achieve the federal government's stated goal of security of access to United States markets. It does not provide a means of shielding Canadian exporters from restrictive US practices.

The agreement contains concessions that will seriously compromise Canada's sovereign ability to shape its own political and economic agenda.

As soon as we receive the text of the final agreement, my government will introduce a resolution for debate in the Legislature and refer the text to the standing committee on finance and economic affairs.

My government will also release detailed studies on the agreement's potential impact on selected Ontario industries and on its constitutional implications.

In tackling the economic and social challenges that confront our province, my government believes that now more than ever we must draw diverse elements together in addressing common needs. We have seen the effectiveness of this comprehensive approach in the efforts of the Ontario Health Review Panel, the Social Assistance Review Committee and the Premier's Council.

Today my government will set forth new initiatives that it will follow in pursuit of its agenda. These initiatives are part of a sustained effort to develop imaginative approaches to achieving our vision of Ontario.

With the goodwill and involvement of all members of this Legislature, my government looks forward to fulfilling these commitments to the people of Ontario.

We must equip our children with the skills, knowledge, creativity and entrepreneurial spirit they will need to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

As part of this effort, government must exercise leadership and set clear goals for our education system.

We must begin by placing a renewed emphasis on the quality of our children's education in their early school years, from kindergarten to grade 6.

We will, in consultation with parents, teachers and school boards:

Establish new provincial benchmarks for literacy, languages, mathematics, sciences and social studies;

Develop more effective ways of measuring student achievement against these benchmarks;

Ensure that parents receive more detailed information on their children's progress.

We will support this drive for higher standards with an improved environment for learning basic skills.

We will provide school boards with resources to reduce class sizes in grades 1 and 2; increase the use of computers and educational software; purchase new textbooks and other learning materials; and help teachers to update their knowledge of computer skills.

As part of an ongoing effort to involve parents, teachers, administrators and legislators of all parties in the development of new initiatives, we will establish a select committee on education.

We will provide TVOntario with additional support to increase the amount of new programming aimed at elementary and secondary students.

We will also ensure greater use of our schools in the development of an integrated child care

system. We will create more child care spaces for school-aged children in existing schools, new schools and in neighbourhood locations close to schools.

Our renewed emphasis on literacy and other basic learning skills in early school years should ensure that our children develop the essential foundation for future education and training.

At the same time, we recognize that there are many adults who do not have that foundation.

Last summer, we launched a program to increase literacy training through community-based programs in our schools, libraries and work sites.

1520

As we continue to assess the dimensions of this problem, we will promote literacy training, particularly for special groups, including older workers.

We will seek to increase public awareness about the personal and economic cost of illiteracy and the importance of dealing with this urgent issue.

Many Ontarians do not have access to affordable quality housing.

We believe the measures introduced in the past two years have been an effective first step in addressing this situation, but there is a great deal more that we must do to search out innovative and creative solutions.

We will continue to directly create and preserve low-priced and moderately priced housing through such measures as nonprofit housing; conversion-to-rental; upgrading, modifying and intensifying existing stock; and creating an environment conducive to increased investment in new rental housing.

Particular attention will be given to providing integrated housing and support-service care to special needs groups such as disabled persons, battered women and their children, the frail elderly and the homeless.

We will modify our planning policies, accelerate our efforts to contain the cost of construction and use government lands to increase the overall supply of affordable housing.

The provision of low-priced and moderately priced housing must be a central part of the planning process and not a supplementary activity at the end.

We will assist those with moderate incomes to realize their goal of first-time home ownership.

We will introduce a new Ontario home ownership savings plan to assist people to purchase their first homes.

In addition, we will increase protection for buyers of new homes.

As we look ahead to challenging global economic conditions, we must lay the foundation for future growth by building on existing strengths and creating new ones.

In particular, we must encourage the development of industries that export their goods and services. These are the industries that promote growth in the economy and provide the base for our general level of economic activity.

The Premier's Council has been active in analysing Ontario's competitive strengths and weaknesses.

The results of that analysis will provide us with an in-depth understanding of Ontario's competitive position. The information will assist in changing the mandate of government institutions involved in economic development.

The analysis will be shared with the people of Ontario and with other governments through a series of papers on strategic development. The papers will be released in the near future.

A report prepared by the council, including recommendations to government, will be released early in the new year. These recommendations will help form the basis for the development of new economic strategies for growth.

Last June, the Premier's Council announced the establishment of seven centres of excellence. Activity undertaken at the centres and supported through the technology fund will include laser and lightwave research, space and terrestrial science, integrated manufacturing, ground-water research, information technology, materials research and telecommunications research.

The council will ensure that these activities are linked to private sector research and development.

We invite other provinces to participate in the research activities carried out at the centres and we look forward to sharing the results of this research with all Canadians. At the same time, we shall put forward proposals for co-operative action leading to the establishment of a national network of centres of excellence.

The technology fund will also be used to stimulate co-operative, precompetitive private sector research and development. The council has reviewed numerous submissions and, in the near future, we will announce the first set of projects that are to receive funding. The proposals include development in the areas of remote sensing, software, robotics and analytical instrumentation.

While promoting technological innovation, we will continue to modernize our training system and ensure that Ontario's workforce has the skills and flexibility to adjust to changing technological requirements.

We will modernize our apprenticeship system and make it more accessible to women and other groups whose participation rate has traditionally been low.

We will further expand accessibility to post-secondary programs through increased funding of the Ontario student assistance program.

Within the next few weeks we will introduce the appointment of an industrial restructuring commissioner. The commissioner will develop improved employment and business opportunities by playing an active role in the identification of businesses at risk and reviewing creative strategies, including employee-participation options.

The Premier's Council has recently completed reviewing 24 proposals for the establishment of centres of entrepreneurship in our colleges and universities. The six proposals selected will be announced in the next few days.

The centres, which will operate in conjunction with the private sector, will promote the teaching of entrepreneurship, sponsor visiting entrepreneurs, venture capitalists and researchers and support the work of campus-based innovation centres.

We recognize that the issue of northern growth and development is one that will require ongoing attention.

In addition to our existing northern programs such as the northern development fund, we have been receiving input from northern Ontarians, and particularly northern development councils, on the role and mandate of the northern Ontario heritage fund. An advisory council will be established to help identify priorities in the distribution of the fund.

The standing committee on resources development will review the Mining Act to ensure that it reflects the importance of the mining industry and the new realities facing that industry.

A buy-north program will be developed to strengthen competitive northern sourcing and servicing of government operations.

We will sustain our effort to improve access to health care in northern Ontario.

We look forward to the development of additional approaches to northern development at the Conference on Northern Business and Entrepreneurship later this month in Thunder Bay.

Ontario's roads, highways and waterfront areas play a vital role in the economic and social development of our province.

We will encourage the responsible development of our waterfront areas to meet needs associated with tourism, recreation, heritage preservation and industrial development.

We will strengthen our transportation infrastructure, particularly in northern and eastern Ontario:

We will immediately proceed with the planning, design and property acquisition for Highway 416 in the Ottawa area.

We will provide funds to accelerate the construction and rehabilitation of northern highway projects such as the Kenora bypass and Highway 560.

We will begin construction of the Sudbury southeast bypass upon completion of a successful environmental assessment.

More than 3.5 million Ontarians live in the greater Toronto area, Canada's largest urban concentration. Yet for many years the rapid development of this area has taken place without an overall co-ordinated strategy for growth. The problem is particularly acute in the Toronto waterfront area where a multitude of governments and agencies have jurisdiction.

We will bring forward new ideas for co-ordinating policies, programs and plans to ensure the orderly development of the greater Toronto area.

As part of this effort, we will address the issue of transportation in the greater Toronto area.

If Ontario is to strengthen its competitive position, we must have a reliable, safe and cost-efficient supply of energy. We must also develop and use that energy in an environmentally safe way.

We will introduce a number of measures designed to encourage energy conservation and greater public input into the development of energy policy:

We will review the Power Corporation Act and related acts and introduce amendments to foster greater public accountability and responsiveness on the part of Ontario Hydro.

We will appoint a select legislative committee on energy.

We will introduce an energy efficiency act. The act will provide for higher standards of efficiency for appliances and heating and cooling equipment.

We will encourage greater municipal involvement in energy conservation.

1530

Throughout the last decade, Ontarians have been adopting a more positive attitude towards the lifestyles they choose to lead. We recognize that many illnesses and diseases such as stroke, heart disease and cancer are often directly related to nutritional and lifestyle choices.

We want a health care system that reflects this new awareness, a system that emphasizes the prevention of illness and disease and the promotion of healthy living habits. Our current health care system does an excellent job of treating people who are ill. We must now design and implement a system that also keeps people well.

We must also design a system that is able to serve us as much as possible within our own communities and our own homes. We recognize the limitations and tremendous expense associated with an institution-based system. We know that we must develop new and more innovative community-based approaches.

We also recognize that for many individuals such as seniors, the disabled and others in need of special services, quality health care is not enough to ensure they lead independent and productive lives.

We are determined to provide a broad network of support that will allow them to reach their full potential and contribute as much as possible according to their ability.

As a province, we are currently spending more than \$11 billion on health care—nearly one third of all government expenditures.

But our health care system is still faced with considerable challenges, including an increase in the rate of chronic illnesses and the rising cost of medical technology.

We will address these challenges through a new health strategy which emphasizes health promotion, prevention of disease, community-based services and alternatives to institutional care.

To provide leadership in pursuing this new direction, we will establish a Premier's council on health strategy.

We will look to community health centres and health service organizations to play a greater role in health promotion.

We will encourage the development of innovative health care proposals by community groups, health care providers, agencies, researchers and others.

We will increase our support for alcohol and drug dependency treatment programs and community mental health programs.

As part of our overall emphasis on the prevention of injury, illness and disease, we must take steps to ensure a healthy and safe environment in the workplace.

We will reintroduce legislation to strengthen workers' rights to a healthy and safe workplace. We will also implement the worker and community right-to-know legislation adopted earlier this year.

We will continue to act to restore both employer and employee confidence in the Workers' Compensation Board.

We support the concept of early intervention and a client-centred approach in the rehabilitation of injured workers. We will be putting forward new ways of enhancing the re-employment of injured workers and reforming permanent partial disability pensions.

We will ask the standing committee on resources development to recommend further ways of reducing injuries and fatalities in Ontario mines.

Over the past two years we have made great progress in providing community supports which enable senior citizens to live at home, in their own communities, close to family and friends.

Similar supports have been provided to assist disabled Ontarians to live independent lives.

We will continue to expand this network of support services, such as the integrated homemakers program. The expanded network will enable the frail elderly and the disabled in every part of the province to have access to services such as meal preparation, laundry, shopping, personal care, light housekeeping and escorted transportation.

We will improve access to transportation services for seniors and the disabled.

Even with a broad network of social support services, a small number of seniors require a level of care which can only be provided in an institutional setting.

We believe that it is important that they receive such care in an environment and a cultural setting that are familiar to them.

To assist in meeting this need, we will support the establishment of new nursing homes tailored to the requirements of Ontario's diverse cultural communities. The nursing homes will be linked to community multicultural programs for the elderly.

This initiative will be part of an ongoing effort to develop a social service network that is sensitive to the needs of our ethnic and cultural groups.

Our social assistance system must be redesigned to support individuals in achieving independence.

Over the past year, the Social Assistance Review Committee has undertaken a comprehensive study of our social assistance programs and conducted hearings across the province.

We look forward to releasing the committee's report and recommendations this spring. We particularly await the committee's advice concerning ways of removing current disincentives to achieving greater individual independence.

We will continue to take a strong and forceful approach to protecting our lands, lakes, rivers, beaches and air.

We will introduce a number of new initiatives to strengthen our effort to prevent pollution before it starts and restore the environment where it has been damaged.

We will bolster the enforcement of environmental protection standards. We will accelerate our effort to clean up beaches and environmental hazards. We will assist companies meeting select criteria to develop and install new technology required to comply with Ontario's tough pollution standards. We will increase support for municipal and industrial recycling. We will introduce an ecological reserves act to preserve areas of outstanding environmental significance.

Ontarians must be protected from unfair and arbitrary practices in the marketplace.

A review of consumer protection legislation will be concluded this winter following a major research and consultative process involving consumer and industry groups. From this effort, we will bring forward a comprehensive consumer protection code.

We will reintroduce legislation to establish an independent and accessible rate review board for determining automobile insurance premiums. The legislation will also provide for a uniform classification system to be used by all insurance companies.

We will amend the Insurance Act to establish a means of arbitrating consumer complaints regarding unfair insurance practices.

Legislation will be reintroduced to provide protection for owners of motor vehicles needing repairs.

We will also act to reduce the number of alcohol-related vehicular accidents by establishing a reduce-impaired-driving-everywhere program covering every part of the province on a year-round basis, funding community-based public awareness programs and requiring

alcohol-related industries to promote responsible use of their products.

Ontario will continue to play a constructive role in addressing the issues and challenges that face us as a nation.

We look forward to hosting the first ministers' conference on the economy later this month in Toronto and to presenting concrete proposals for strengthening Canada's capacity to adjust to changing global conditions.

The Meech Lake accord is before the Parliament of Canada and provincial legislatures. In accordance with our commitment, we will introduce a resolution and invite the Legislature to establish a select committee on constitutional reform to consider the accord and related matters.

We will continue to press for a national partnership in the provision of child care services.

Last June we announced a multi-year plan for increasing the range of services for Ontario parents who require quality care for their children. While we will continue to implement our plan, we still await the federal government's response to the need for a national program.

In these and other matters, my government will continue to operate in a manner that is open and accessible to all Ontarians.

1540

Nous veillerons à ce que le gouvernement soit représentatif de l'ensemble de la population et à ce que toutes nos institutions reflètent fidèlement la diversité sociale et multiculturelle de l'Ontario.

The new Ministry of Citizenship will be responsible for implementing the multicultural strategy announced last June. Every government ministry will be asked to examine ways of ensuring that our diverse population is better served by government legislation, policies and programs. The Minister of Citizenship (Mr. Phillips), whose mandate has a particular focus on human rights, will have responsibility for the Ontario Human Rights Commission. We are committed to a strong and independent commission, capable of dealing with matters of discrimination.

Employment equity will continue to be a key part of our strategy to eliminate systemic discrimination. We have begun implementing this principle in the public sector.

The pay equity legislation approved last session will be proclaimed on January 1, 1988.

We will proceed with the scheduled implementation of the French Language Services Act.

The people of Ontario must have full confidence in their representatives.

We will immediately introduce conflict-of-interest legislation that will govern the conduct of all members of this Legislature. Public disclosure and independent review will be an integral part of the new system.

The people of Ontario also have a right to expect accountability from their government for the management of their court system. We will act to ensure the effectiveness, efficiency and accessibility of Ontario courts.

We recognize the vital role that opposition parties play in the workings of this Legislature. We will ensure that this importance is reflected in a revitalized legislative committee structure.

As part of our ongoing exercise of legislative reform, we will support the appointment of members of the opposition to the chairmanship of legislative committees dealing with public accountability.

With the goodwill of all members of this Legislature, we will continue to help the people of this province prepare for the 21st century.

May Divine Providence attend your deliberations.

In our Sovereign's name, I thank you.

God bless the Queen and Canada.

The Honourable the Lieutenant Governor was pleased to retire from the chamber.

Prayers.

Mr. Speaker: I beg to inform the House that, to prevent mistakes, I have obtained a copy of His Honour's speech which I shall now read. [Reading dispensed with.]

INTRODUCTION OF BILL

MEMBERS' CONFLICT OF INTEREST ACT LOI SUR LES CONFLITS D'INTÉRÊTS DES MEMBRES DE L'ASSEMBLÉE

Hon. Mr. Scott moved first reading of Bill 1, An Act to provide for greater Certainty in the Reconciliation of the Personal Interests of Members of the Assembly and the Executive Council with their Duties of Office.

L'hon. M. Scott propose la première lecture du projet de loi 1, Loi assurant une plus grande certitude quant au rapprochement des intérêts personnels des membres de l'Assemblée et du Conseil des ministres avec les devoirs de leurs fonctions.

Motion agreed to.

La motion est adoptée.

Mr. Speaker: There are two items of information that I would like to give to the House today. First, I beg to inform the House that the member for York South (Mr. B. Rae) is recognized as leader of Her Majesty's loyal opposition.

Second, I beg to inform the House that the Clerk has laid upon the table the roll of members elected at the general election of 1987.

MOTION

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

Hon. Mr. Conway moved that the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor to the House be taken into consideration tomorrow, November 4, 1987.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 3:48 p.m.

APPENDIX*

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE
COUNCIL

Peterson, Hon. David R., Premier and President of the Council and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs
 Nixon, Hon. Robert F., Deputy Premier, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics and Minister of Financial Institutions
 Conway, Hon. Sean G., Minister of Mines
 Bradley, Hon. James J., Minister of the Environment
 Scott, Hon. Ian G., Attorney General
 Riddell, Hon. Jack, Minister of Agriculture and Food
 Eakins, Hon. John F., Minister of Municipal Affairs
 Kerrio, Hon. Vincent G., Minister of Natural Resources
 O'Neil, Hon. Hugh P., Minister of Tourism and Recreation
 Sweeney, Hon. John, Minister of Community and Social Services
 Elston, Hon. Murray J., Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet
 Wrye, Hon. William, Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations
 Grandmaître, Hon. Bernard C., Minister of Revenue
 Curling, Hon. Alvin, Minister of Skills Development
 Fulton, Hon. Ed, Minister of Transportation
 Kwinter, Hon. Monte, Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology
 Munro, Hon. Lily O., Minister of Culture and Communications
 Sorbara, Hon. Gregory S., Minister of Labour
 Caplan, Hon. Elinor, Minister of Health
 Fontaine, Hon. René, Minister of Northern Development
 Ramsay, Hon. David, Minister of Correctional Services
 Smith, Hon. E. Joan, Solicitor General
 Ward, Hon. Christopher C., Minister of Education
 Hošek, Hon. Chaviva, Minister of Housing
 McLeod, Hon. Lyn, Minister of Colleges and Universities
 Patten, Hon. Richard, Minister of Government Services
 Phillips, Hon. Gerry, Minister of Citizenship
 Wong, Hon. Robert C., Minister of Energy
 Mancini, Hon. Remo, Minister without Portfolio

Wilson, Hon. Mavis, Minister without Portfolio

PARLIAMENTARY ASSISTANTS

Bossy, Maurice L.: assistant to the Minister of Housing (Chatham-Kent L)
 Campbell, Sterling: assistant to the Minister of Mines (Sudbury L)
 Chiarelli, Robert: assistant to the Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Ottawa West L)
 Collins, Shirley (Miss): assistant to the Minister of Labour (Wentworth East L)
 Cordiano, Joseph: assistant to the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (Lawrence L)
 Ferraro, Rick E.: assistant to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Guelph L)
 Haggerty, Ray: assistant to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Niagara South L)
 Hart, Christine E. (Ms.): assistant to the Minister of the Environment (York East L)
 Henderson, D. James: assistant to the Minister of Colleges and Universities (Etobicoke-Humber L)
 Kanter, Ron: assistant to the Solicitor General (St. Andrew-St. Patrick L)
 Keyes, Kenneth A.: assistant to the Minister of Health (Kingston and the Islands L)
 Kozyra, Taras B.: assistant to the Minister of Northern Development (Port Arthur L)
 Lupusella, Tony: assistant to the Minister of Transportation (Dovercourt L)
 McGuigan, James F.: assistant to the Minister of Natural Resources (Essex-Kent L)
 Miller, Gordon I.: assistant to the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Norfolk L)
 Morin, Gilles E.: assistant to the Minister of Community and Social Services (Carleton East L)
 Neumann, David E.: assistant to the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Brantford L)
 Nixon, J. Bradford: assistant to the Minister of Financial Institutions (York Mills L)
 Offer, Steven: assistant to the Attorney General (Mississauga North L)
 O'Neill, Yvonne (Mrs.): assistant to the Minister of Education (Ottawa-Rideau L)
 Pelissero, Harry E.: assistant to the Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Lincoln L)
 Polsinelli, Claudio: assistant to the Minister of Treasury and Economics (Yorkview L)
 Ruprecht, Tony: assistant to the Minister of Citizenship (Parkdale L)

Van Horne, Ronald G.: assistant to the Minister of Revenue (London North L)

*The lists in this appendix, brought up to date as

necessary, are published in Hansard in the first and last issues of each session and on the first sitting day of each month.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS

(130 seats)

First Session, 34th Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. L. M. Alexander, PC, QC

-
- | | |
|---|--|
| Adams, Peter (Peterborough L) | Farnan, Michael (Cambridge NDP) |
| Allen, Richard (Hamilton West NDP) | Faubert, Frank (Scarborough-Ellesmere L) |
| Ballinger, William G. (Durham-York L) | Fawcett, Joan M. (Northumberland L) |
| Beer, Charles (York North L) | Ferraro, Rick E. (Guelph L) |
| Black, Kenneth H. (Muskoka-Georgian Bay L) | Fleet, David (High Park-Swansea L) |
| Bossy, Maurice L. (Chatham-Kent L) | Fontaine, Hon. René , Minister of Northern Development (Cochrane North L) |
| Bradley, Hon. James J. , Minister of the Environment (St. Catharines L) | Fulton, Hon. Ed , Minister of Transportation (Scarborough East L) |
| Brandt, Andrew S. (Sarnia PC) | Furlong, Allan W. (Durham Centre L) |
| Breaugh, Michael J. (Oshawa NDP) | Grandmaitre, Hon. Bernard C. , Minister of Revenue (Ottawa East L) |
| Brown, Michael A. (Algoma-Manitoulin L) | Grier, Ruth A. (Etobicoke-Lakeshore NDP) |
| Bryden, Marion H. (Beaches-Woodbine NDP) | Haggerty, Ray (Niagara South L) |
| Callahan, Robert V. (Brampton South L) | Hampton, Howard (Rainy River NDP) |
| Campbell, Sterling (Sudbury L) | Harris, Michael D. (Nipissing PC) |
| Caplan, Hon. Elinor , Minister of Health (Orillia L) | Hart, Christine E. (York East L) |
| Carrothers, Douglas A. (Oakville South L) | Henderson, D. James (Etobicoke-Humber L) |
| Charlton, Brian A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP) | Hošek, Hon. Chaviva , Minister of Housing (Oakwood L) |
| Chiarelli, Robert (Ottawa West L) | Jackson, Cameron (Burlington South PC) |
| Cleary, John C. (Cornwall L) | Johnson, Jack (Wellington PC) |
| Collins, Shirley (Wentworth East L) | Johnston, Richard F. (Scarborough West NDP) |
| Conway, Hon. Sean G. , Minister of Mines (Renfrew North L) | Kanter, Ron (St. Andrew-St. Patrick L) |
| Cooke, David R. (Kitchener L) | Kerrio, Hon. Vincent G. , Minister of Natural Resources (Niagara Falls L) |
| Cooke, David S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP) | Keyes, Kenneth A. (Kingston and the Islands L) |
| Cordiano, Joseph (Lawrence L) | Kozyra, Taras B. (Port Arthur L) |
| Cousens, W. Donald (Markham PC) | Kwinter, Hon. Monte , Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Wilson Heights L) |
| Cureatz, Sam L. (Durham East PC) | Laughren, Floyd (Nickel Belt NDP) |
| Curling, Hon. Alvin , Minister of Skills Development (Scarborough North L) | LeBourdais, Linda (Etobicoke West L) |
| Daigeler, Hans (Nepean L) | Leone, Laureano (Downsview L) |
| Dietsch, Michael M. (St. Catharines-Brock L) | Lipsett, Ron (Grey L) |
| Eakins, Hon. John F. , Minister of Municipal Affairs (Victoria-Haliburton L) | Lupusella, Tony (Dovercourt L) |
| Edighoffer, Hon. Hugh A. , Speaker (Perth L) | MacDonald, Keith (Prince Edward-Lennox L) |
| Elliot, R. Walter (Halton North L) | Mackenzie, Bob (Hamilton East NDP) |
| Elston, Hon. Murray J. , Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Bruce L) | Mahoney, Steven W. (Mississauga West L) |
| Epp, Herbert A. (Waterloo North L) | Mancini, Hon. Remo , Minister without Portfolio (Essex South L) |
| Eves, Ernie L. (Parry Sound PC) | |

- Marland, Margaret (Mississauga South PC)
 Martel, Shelley (Sudbury East NDP)
 Matrundola, Gino (Willowdale L)
 McCague, George R. (Simcoe West PC)
 McClelland, Carman (Brampton North L)
 McGuigan, James F. (Essex-Kent L)
 McGuinty, Dalton J. (Ottawa South L)
 McLean, Allan K. (Simcoe East PC)
McLeod, Hon. Lyn, Minister of Colleges and Universities (Fort William L)
 Miclash, Frank (Kenora L)
 Miller, Gordon I. (Norfolk L)
 Morin, Gilles E. (Carleton East L)
 Morin-Strom, Karl E. (Sault Ste. Marie NDP)
Munro, Hon. Lily O., Minister of Culture and Communications (Hamilton Centre L)
 Neumann, David E. (Brantford L)
 Nicholas, Cindy (Scarborough Centre L)
 Nixon, J. Bradford (York Mills L)
Nixon, Hon. Robert F., Deputy Premier, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics and Minister of Financial Institutions (Brant-Haldimand L)
 Offer, Steven (Mississauga North L)
O'Neil, Hon. Hugh P., Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Quinte L)
 O'Neill, Yvonne (Ottawa-Rideau L)
 Owen, Bruce (Simcoe Centre L)
Patten, Hon. Richard, Minister of Government Services (Ottawa Centre L)
 Pelissero, Harry E. (Lincoln L)
Peterson, Hon. David R., Premier and President of the Council and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (London Centre L)
 Philip, Ed (Etobicoke-Rexdale NDP)
Phillips, Hon. Gerry, Minister of Citizenship (Scarborough-Agincourt L)
 Poirier, Jean (Prescott and Russell L)
 Pollock, Jim (Hastings-Peterborough PC)
 Polsinelli, Claudio (Yorkview L)
 Poole, Dianne (Eglinton L)
 Pope, Alan W. (Cochrane South PC)
 Pouliot, Gilles (Lake Nipigon NDP)
 Rae, Bob (York South NDP)
Ramsay, Hon. David, Minister of Correctional Services (Timiskaming L)
 Ray, Michael C. (Windsor-Walkerville L)
 Reville, David (Riverdale NDP)
 Reycraft, Douglas R. (Middlesex L)
Riddell, Hon. Jack, Minister of Agriculture and Food (Huron L)
 Roberts, Marietta L. D. (Elgin L)
 Runciman, Robert W. (Leeds-Grenville PC)
 Ruprecht, Tony (Parkdale L)
Scott, Hon. Ian G., Attorney General (St. George-St. David L) Smith, David W. (Lambton L)
Smith, Hon. E. Joan, Solicitor General (London South L)
 Sola, John (Mississauga East L)
Sorbara, Hon. Gregory S., Minister of Labour (York Centre L)
 South, Larry (Frontenac-Addington L)
 Sterling, Norman W. (Carleton PC)
 Stoner, Norah (Durham West L)
 Sullivan, Barbara (Halton Centre L)
 Swart, Mel (Welland-Thorold NDP)
Sweeney, Hon. John, Minister of Community and Social Services (Kitchener-Wilmot L)
 Tatham, Charlie (Oxford L)
 Van Horne, Ronald G. (London North L)
 Velshi, Murad (Don Mills L)
 Villeneuve, Noble (Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry PC)
Ward, Hon. Christopher C., Minister of Education (Wentworth North L)
 Wildman, Bud (Algoma NDP)
Wilson, Hon. Mavis, Minister without Portfolio (Dufferin-Peel L)
 Wiseman, Douglas J. (Lanark-Renfrew PC)
Wong, Hon. Robert C., Minister of Energy (Fort York L)
Wrye, Hon. William, Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Windsor-Sandwich L)

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No. 2

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

First Session, 34th Parliament
Wednesday, November 4, 1987



Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: Claude L. DesRosiers

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Contents of the proceedings reported in this issue of Hansard appears at the back, together with an alphabetical list of members of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Wednesday, November 4, 1987

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

Prayers.

BOARD OF INTERNAL ECONOMY

Mr. Speaker: I beg to inform the House that I have laid upon the table a copy of order-in-council 2294-87 appointing the Speaker, who shall be chairman, the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway), the member for London South (Mrs. Smith), the member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Patten), the member for Halton Centre (Mrs. Sullivan), the member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. D. S. Cooke) and the member for Parry Sound (Mr. Eves) as commissioners to the Board of Internal Economy.

LEGISLATIVE PAGES

Mr. Speaker: I would also ask all members to join me in welcoming the first group of legislative pages to serve in the First Session of the 34th Parliament, 1987. I will name them and state the riding from whence they came.

Seth Brennan, Lanark-Renfrew; Katherine Brown, Northumberland; Nick Covelli, Mississauga East; Meredith Dodge, Etobicoke West; Erin Eacott, Oxford; Heather Hawley, Essex-Kent; Darrell Jackson, Cambridge; Stephanie Joyce, Ottawa Centre; Douglas Kirkby, Etobicoke-Humber; Robert Leckey, York North; Annie Lefebvre, Wentworth East; Geniev Mondoux, Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry; Coralee Mueller, Algoma; Theresa Miuse, Cochrane South; Patrick Mullan, London Centre; Daniel Perrier, Markham; Christopher Sattler, Simcoe East; Jodi Shanoff, Dovercourt; Haniya Sheikh, Durham West; Janet Sunohara, Victoria-Haliburton; Sam Ventresca, Niagara Falls; and Matthew Wilson, Elgin.

Please join me in welcoming our pages.

RENÉ LÉVESQUE

Hon. R. F. Nixon: All Canadians were shocked and saddened to hear of the death of René Lévesque earlier this week. He had an extensive and extremely interesting political career. In spite of his avowed aim during his latter days to lead Quebec out of Confederation, people everywhere recognized the sincerity of his commitment, but much more than that, his

ability as a politician to sometimes cut through the bureaucratic red tape and general obfuscation of politics in general to express a view that was understood and at least respected by all Canadians.

I met him first when he was a member of a Liberal administration in Quebec and, even there, his initiative and ability to persuade showed themselves in the policies of those Liberal governments at that time. I think of the nationalization of Hydro-Québec as one of his substantial contributions in public affairs.

I also had an opportunity to meet him a number of times, both in his capacity as a cabinet minister and also as the leader of the Parti Québécois, both before he was elected and after he became Leader of the Opposition. I think it was in one of those stages as Leader of the Opposition in Quebec that one of the more aggressive and imaginative executive directors of—I believe it was—the furniture retailers in this province decided to invite M. Lévesque and myself, as Leader of the Opposition here, to debate separatism. I was unwise enough to participate, because on points he won hands down.

I do recall the question being put to me at the time of the debate, which I think was held in one of the halls out in the Canadian National Exhibition grounds: What would Ontario's role be if Quebec did separate? That was before I learned the standard answer to hypothetical questions, and instead of referring to it that way, I said that in the unlikely event, and God forbid that that should happen, our traditions and associations with Quebec would surely come to the fore and we would be, whatever happened, Quebec's best friend.

I remember returning to question period in the House—I was sitting somewhere over there—and a person who was my predecessor as Treasurer picking up on that in a most heavy-handed way. References to "traitors," as a matter of fact, were exchanged. I felt very badly about it, both for my own position and for the view of the person who referred to it that way in the House. That seems to be behind us as far as an issue is concerned, because the issue of separatism being led effectively and put strongly to the people of Quebec and then being rejected has, in many

respects, strengthened our Confederation in a way that perhaps we would not otherwise have imagined.

I suppose, on a more personal basis, M. Lévesque's sudden death has an impact on us all and is a clear indication of the mortality under which we live. As a politician, his example of forthrightness, whatever we think about his views on the issues, was and continues to be an excellent one. He will be missed by all Canadians, and particularly by those in Quebec who dealt with him in a regular way both in politics and in the administration of public affairs.

M. B. Rae: À l'occasion de la mort de René Lévesque, le Québec et le Canada partagent une perte, comme nous avons partagé une vie extraordinaire.

René Lévesque fut, tout d'abord, un journaliste exceptionnel qui nous apprit beaucoup à nous tous, tant sur la place du Canada dans le monde que sur la politique naissante du nationalisme québécois. En sa qualité de ministre dans le gouvernement Lesage, il obtint pour le public québécois le droit de propriété et le contrôle d'Hydro-Québec. Ce fut également une voix qui ne cessait d'insister sur le franc-parler et la droiture au sein des conseils du Parti libéral du Québec.

Ensuite, il mit sur pied le plus grand mouvement démocratique pour un Québec indépendant dans l'histoire de notre pays. Il dirigea au Québec un gouvernement qui a laissé un héritage permanent dans un éventail énorme de domaines socio-économiques, héritage qui continuera d'inspirer maintes autres provinces dans leur travail et l'élaboration de leurs lois.

René Lévesque consacra la majeure partie de sa carrière politique à la création d'un Québec indépendant. Ce n'était pas une vision du Canada que je partageais. Toutefois, nous devons tous reconnaître qu'il insuffla à la vie politique québécoise un sens unique de fierté et de passion, tout en apportant son honnêteté et sa probité à la vie politique de tout le Canada.

En poursuivant sa bataille avec tant de franchise et de passion; il nous força tous à réfléchir sur le sort du Canada, à nous en soucier davantage, enfin, à faire un plus grand effort d'incorporer le Québec et son identité distincte dans notre vision à nous.

René Lévesque a bien vécu, pleinement vécu. C'est une vie que nous devons tous célébrer.

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If I can speak for a few moments in English, in addition to what I have said, the one thing I think is remarkable about the last few days, as

Canadians have learned about and come to terms with the death of René Lévesque, is that the vast majority of us, quite obviously and quite clearly, did not share his political passion of the last 15 years. Indeed, there are many of us who, during the days of the referendum and at many other times, fought to make sure that Quebec felt itself at home in Confederation.

But it is also true to say, as I think often is the case only when one is forced to confront these things, as we have been because of his tragic early death, that Mr. Lévesque forced all of us as Canadians to care more about our country and forced all of us to explain to ourselves what Canada meant to us, in particular with respect to Confederation and the province of Quebec. Even though I am sure he himself would have regarded it as an act of extraordinary irony, I think what he did was to strengthen Confederation, because by challenging Confederation to its very limits, he forced all of us to confront what is good and permanent in that Confederation and forced us in particular to recognize, I hope, in our new Constitution the unique and distinct identity of Quebec.

He was a remarkably honest, straightforward, frank, funny and direct politician. He was not particularly a packaged, well-produced, over-managed and technocratic politician. He was a politician of the people. He was somebody who reflected in his life and in his work what he really believed in. All of us who have watched his career, who have learned from him, can only admire him as a person, as much as I certainly disagreed with him on the fundamental question of Quebec's role in Confederation.

It was only a 65-year life, but he packed an awful lot into those 65 years. It is a life we should celebrate just as we commemorate the sadness of his death and extend to Mrs. Lévesque and to the Lévesque family the very best wishes and sentiments of the people of this Legislature and the people of Ontario.

À la famille de M. Lévesque, surtout à sa femme, nous exprimons, de la part de la province de l'Ontario, notre sentiment de perte. Nous espérons que le sentiment extraordinaire de perte, qui est partagé par tous les Canadiens, donnera un peu de réconfort à la famille de M. Lévesque.

Mr. Brandt: I want to join my colleagues in the Legislature in expressing the very deep sympathy of my party with respect to the very unfortunate death of Mr. Lévesque.

I had the opportunity, I guess some three years ago, to attend a first ministers' conference in

Regina and for the first time met Mr. Lévesque. I was immediately struck, as many of us who had the opportunity to meet him were, with his intense love of his province, Quebec, and of his tremendous grasp as a politician of the issues of the day in his capacity to bring his own particular style of political solution to those problems.

Now, I make no apology for the fact that my party did not agree with the policies of Mr. Lévesque as they related to the separation of Quebec and to the treatment of that particular province within the context of Confederation, but we did admire him for his tenacity as a politician and for his strong belief in what he had set forward as his goals. I agree entirely with the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. B. Rae) that he caused us to take a moment and reflect on what being a Canadian was all about. He caused us perhaps to look at ourselves and make a determination as to whether this country was really worth fighting for and if the united Canada we all strive for was in fact a battleground we could enter into.

I also recall some years earlier when I had the opportunity to visit Quebec, when I was in a different capacity as the mayor of a community in Ontario. I sensed in a very direct way the intensity of feeling of some element of alienation in Quebec, of separation from the rest of the country in terms of total association with other Canadians, and it brought home to me in a very real sense the fact that we had to reach out. Mr. Lévesque taught us that lesson, that we had to reach out to the province of Quebec and to the people of Quebec and show them that those of us in other parts of Canada truly cared. That was one of the lessons I learned from that very great man.

Although I would have fought him on the issue of separation, as most if not all of us in this Legislature would have, we still stand in deep admiration and respect for a man who will leave his mark on Canadian politics, who gave his best to a province he loved very dearly. I want to join with all of us in saying our sympathies go at this moment of loss to his family, his colleagues and certainly the people of Quebec, who loved him very dearly.

L'hon. M. Grandmaitre: La mort de M. Lévesque est vraiment un moment triste pour tous les Canadiens francophones. Partout au Canada, nous avons suivi la carrière politique exceptionnelle de M. Lévesque.

Comme francophone, il est impossible de ne pas apprécier la contribution de ce dernier à la protection de la langue française. Ses efforts ont permis de prendre conscience de la force et du

modernisme de cette langue. Le mouvement présidé par M. Lévesque nous a ouvert de nouvelles manières d'être francophone et d'en être fier dans un monde moderne.

En ce sens, René Lévesque a poussé le Canada à reconnaître le fait français comme une partie intégrale de la société canadienne. Ses idées et ses activités nous ont forcés, comme Canadiens et Canadiennes, à réévaluer notre identité nationale et notre avenir comme un pays uni.

Son départ laisse un grand vide, car nous perdons là un homme qui a toujours illustré éloquemment notre dualité nationale. Nous avons perdu non seulement un grand Québécois mais un grand démocrate qui nous laisse en héritage la garde d'un pays dont l'avenir nous semble maintenant assuré.

Mr. Speaker: I thank the members who have spoken and I will as usual, on behalf of all members, when Hansard is printed, send a copy of those words to the Lévesque family.

PAUL YAKABUSKI

Mr. Sterling: Mr. Speaker, I would seek the unanimous consent of this House to pay tribute to our departed colleague Paul Yakabuski.

Mr. Speaker: Is there unanimous consent?

Agreed to.

Mr. Sterling: I am indeed privileged on behalf of our party to stand before this Legislature to pay tribute to our respected colleague Paul Yakabuski.

Paul was a long-standing member of this Legislature. He was first elected in 1963 and offered 24 years of service to the people of Renfrew South. There are few individuals who are prepared to make such a substantial commitment to public life and even fewer who are given the opportunity to do so.

It goes without saying that Paul Yakabuski was respected for his dedication to his constituency. He was the very essence of a constituency politician. From the village of Carp to the village of Killaloe, he was known for his ability to help those in need. No inquiry was too trivial or too small, nor was it too difficult.

He was in fact a people's representative. But this was to be expected of Paul Yakabuski, as the people of Renfrew South were his friends and his neighbours. By entering political life, he offered to his constituency the gift of his ability to resolve their difficulties, of simply helping his neighbours.

When Paul was born in Barry's Bay in 1922, his family had resided there for more than a century. The Yakabuski name is an institution in

that community, as Paul's father, Frank, started a hardware, building supply and furniture business which provided a multitude of services to the surrounding community.

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On returning from the war in 1946, Paul joined his father and ran the family business. The business is now 70 years old and continues to thrive under the stewardship of Paul's son John.

While having a keen sense for business, Paul also developed an interest in municipal politics. By 1951 Paul could be found on village council, and he was subsequently elected as the reeve in 1952, a position he held for nine years. Two years later he entered provincial politics.

Queen's Park had now met its match. Even the toughest civil servant would graciously concede defeat when Paul took him on.

Every provincial plaque that was issued for Renfrew South was personally signed and hand delivered by the Yak, as we affectionately knew him in our party. He used to contend that the delivery of plaques contributed to his weight, for everywhere he went he was always invited in for a meal.

The man was simply at every possible riding event and then some. His intimate contact with his public allowed him to know families not only on a first-name basis but also on a generation basis.

Paul was an astute politician. He knew that by working hard for his constituency, his constituency would return him here to Queen's Park. Paul was no fool, as we all know, and was not to take unnecessary risks.

You, Mr. Speaker, know how some of us choose to raise a small family, but Paul thought in terms of a campaign organization, and the result of 14 children proved that his theory was correct, as he never was at a loss for volunteers.

We are proud to have four of his children here today with us: Lawrie, Kim, Marlene and Lorna. They are indeed proud of their father, so it will come as no surprise to anyone here that Paul never lost an election in either the municipal or the provincial arena.

He did, however, come close on one occasion, when he first ran for politics for municipal council back in the early 1950s. At that time, I might remind members, there were not a lot of cars in Barry's Bay to drive people to polls. Paul borrowed a car and drove out in the country to pick up an aunt and uncle to come to town to vote. I might add that they owned property in town, so it was all legal. I might add that Paul won that council seat by one vote.

I am told that his dealing with the staff at the Ministry of Natural Resources, where Paul was a parliamentary assistant for 10 years, was a relationship that was very close. As the story goes, Paul was always in a hurry to get back to his constituency. He was flying home to see his constituents, as he would say, but for those of you who do not know, there is no landing strip in Barry's Bay.

Paul was affectionately known as the Mario Andretti of Renfrew South by the local police. He continually claimed that the tickets he received were written in advance and simply handed to him as he sped by.

Paul Yakabuski left a legacy of goodwill and good work to the people of Renfrew South. I am very proud to represent a portion of that fine riding, as I know my colleagues the member for Lanark (Mr. Wiseman) and the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway) are also.

Whenever I was in Paul's area during this last campaign, I would hear of nothing but fond remembrances and kind words for a politician who had served them for almost a quarter of a century. They were saddened by the passing of a noted community leader, but more so they were saddened by the passing of a true friend and neighbour.

In conclusion, he served his country as an infantryman with the Glengarry Highlanders, his province as a provincial member of this Legislature for Renfrew South and his municipality as a reeve and a councillor of Barry's Bay—a lifetime of public service that will be remembered and unlikely to be equalled. His presence will be missed by his constituents and his colleagues. He will be remembered for his dry wit and humour and his enduring compassion for the small man.

On behalf of the Progressive Conservative caucus, our heartfelt condolences go to his wife Dianne, to his children and to all those who loved Paul John Yakabuski.

Mr. Laughren: On behalf of my colleagues, I am pleased to express our regret at the death of Paul Yakabuski. I knew Paul quite well; not as well, I am sure, as my colleague the member for Carleton (Mr. Sterling) did, but I served on many committees with Paul and I even travelled to Europe with him once in the days when committees travelled. I can recall having a great deal of fun with Paul. As a matter of fact, Dianne was with Paul on that trip, and I can recall their buying presents for their rather substantial family and, on the way back, the disbelieving people at the border not understanding how anybody could be buying 20 or 21 gifts, whatever it was; I am

not sure precisely. Dianne was the only member of the family whom I knew personally.

In all my dealings with Paul over the years, I always had the impression that he took his job seriously, much more seriously than he took himself. I always thought he had a rather elfish sense of humour, but it certainly had an edge to it when he wanted to put an edge on it.

When he was parliamentary assistant to the then Minister of Natural Resources—I was the critic for Natural Resources in those days—I can recall going to him on numerous occasions when I could not make headway with the minister, which happened from time to time. I always found Paul extremely accessible and helpful whenever he could be.

When his riding was redistributed, I think most of us had a sense and understood that it was time for Paul to retire. I do not think anybody was surprised that he would have picked that time to retire to a less hectic life and to spend more time with his family, but my colleagues and I regret very much that he did not have the kind of retirement he was entitled to many times over. On behalf of my colleagues, I extend our condolences to the entire Yakabuski family.

Hon. Mr. Conway: I would like to join in the sentiments expressed by the member for Carleton and the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren), and on my own behalf, and more important on behalf of the government, to express our condolences to the Yakabuski family, four members of which are in the gallery with us this afternoon.

It is hard for me to add materially to what has been so eloquently expressed by the member for Carleton and the member for Nickel Belt. It is certainly true, as the member for Lanark-Renfrew, the member for Carleton and I know only too well, that Paul Yakabuski was truly an indefatigable constituency politician.

I remember the former member for Armourdale, Mr. McCaffrey, and I chatting one day about mileage claims, and we were kidding Paul about how it was that he could be so active. I think Bruce and I now well appreciate, given the incredible size of the electoral district of Renfrew South, how it was that he was able to do that. It was because he worked harder than any member of this Legislature I have ever known in meeting that very important part of his responsibility.

There are a couple of things that need to be said, and I think if Paul were here he would want them to be said. One of those comments certainly must be that he was a politician of not inconsiderable independence. In fact, the mem-

ber for Carleton pointed out that Paul never lost an election. That is quite true. I think it is fair to say that Paul, certainly in provincial circles, not only never lost an election, but he also never nearly lost an election. He was very much the people's choice in that constituency.

I think one of the really important reasons is that they viewed him as their person at Queen's Park, someone who was not afraid to stand in front of his own government and in front of his own Premier and make very clearly a case for the people of Killaloe or Carp or wherever in that part of eastern Ontario.

I reflect upon the circumstances of his first nomination and election some 25 years ago, and as I remember the story—the family can correct me—it was that streak of independence that brought him the nomination and the election of 1963.

1400

He was also a character, a character in that tradition of Ottawa Valley characters, many of whom have come to this place: people like Mr. McGarry, Mr. Carty, Mr. Maloney and Jim Dempsey, to name but four. The Ottawa Valley characters I find are now receding very much into the mist of that part of the province, rarely visiting the queen city.

Paul was a character, a maverick who, as the member for Nickel Belt has said, on more than a few occasions, particularly in his committee activities, was not afraid to put forward what some might have viewed as an idiosyncratic point of view.

I think, quite frankly, that one of the ministers of education in the mid-1970s found that Paul took a particular interest in the whole notion of sabbatical leaves for teachers. I well remember the now agent general in London, the then Minister of Education, actually on one occasion coming to me wondering what was going on in Renfrew county that was so exciting Mr. Yakabuski to a daily line of inquiry in question period.

I want to say that I think that was part of his very particular appeal; an individual of tremendous tenacity, warmth and feeling, someone who will long be remembered as an outstanding member of the Ottawa Valley community.

I think it is fitting that his family in significant measure be here today because they were his great support and I think they are his greatest testament.

Mr. Speaker: Again I will, when Hansard is printed, make certain that these words of

sympathy are forwarded to the Yakabuski family.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

STOCK MARKET

Mr. Laughren: When the stock markets around the world took a tumble on October 19, virtually every western political leader moved very quickly to reassure everyone that their respective economies were basically sound. Not so Ontario's Premier (Mr. Peterson) and Treasurer (Mr. Nixon). These two Chicken Little twins of the western world fell all over each other declaring that the sky indeed just might be falling. The only leadership they showed was in the rush to be first on the ledge.

"The stock market's tumble could delay Ontario's plan to tie pensions to inflation," thundered our normally unflappable Treasurer. The Premier reinforced his Treasurer's fear by saying, "These are tumultuous times for the market and history tells you that the economy tends to follow this kind of downturn in the marketplace."

It is too bad that the Treasurer and the Premier did not show a different kind of leadership and perhaps think a little more carefully before they spoke because it just caused more problems.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

Mr. J. M. Johnson: I would like to bring to the attention of this House my serious concern and disappointment at the government's blatant disregard for addressing with more immediacy the many urgent problems that our province faces at this time.

To highlight this concern, I would like to quote the closing paragraph of yesterday's speech from the throne, "With the goodwill of all members of this Legislature, we will continue to help the people of this province prepare for the 21st century."

While it is excellent to prepare for the future, there are many problems needing solutions before the next century. What about the immediate needs of our farmers, many of whom are at this time facing financial disaster? What about the many municipalities that now lack adequate sewage and water facilities and safe garbage disposal sites? What about the problems in the areas of education, health and social services on which action must be taken now?

Is it the intention of this government to postpone solutions to these major problems for the 21st century by sloughing them off for further study to select committees, commissions, advi-

sory agencies and the Premier's Council instead of addressing them today?

This throne speech is one that dwells on the future and ignores the present, and this government is putting off for tomorrow what should be done today. Surely the people of Ontario deserve better.

MISS CANADA

Mr. Reycraft: I want to draw to the attention of the assembly this afternoon the achievement of Melinda Gillies of London on Monday evening here in Toronto. Melinda was chosen over 43 other contestants as Miss Canada 1988.

Melinda, who is 22 years old, is a student at the University of Western Ontario and is majoring in law and social science at King's College. She is preparing herself for a career in politics and has announced a very specific goal. She wants to become the Minister of Community and Social Services. My friend the member for Kitchener-Wilmot (Mr. Sweeney) will want to take note. Melinda has said that she will use the scholarships that come with her crown to advance her education and is confident that the new contacts she will make will provide her with many new career opportunities.

I want to congratulate Miss Gillies and also her parents, Archie and Mary, on her success. I am sure all members will want to wish her well as she prepares to represent Canada at the Miss Universe pageant in China next May and attempts to become the second Miss London to wear that crown in this decade.

NORTHERN ONTARIO HERITAGE FUND

Miss Martel: Let me say that it gives me great pleasure as a new member and a member from northern Ontario to stand in the House today to comment upon this government's lack of commitment to northern Ontario as it was demonstrated once again yesterday in the throne speech. In that throne speech we saw that this government continues to pay lipservice to northern Ontario.

Let me focus upon the northern Ontario heritage fund, which was announced with such fanfare in May 1987 in the budget. The heritage fund was something for which we as New Democrats had fought for years, but we in the north were also sadly disappointed that the government allocated only \$30 million to that fund.

I want to remind members of this House that the \$30-million sum was the same as this government put into one project, the domed

stadium, in southern Ontario. The government also spent more on one plant in southern Ontario, the Toyota plant, than it did in northern Ontario. Of course, northerners still have to see that money. It has not yet arrived into our hands. I suppose this government feels that six months of waiting is not too long. I mean, after all, we in the north have been waiting for years for some action in northern Ontario from provincial governments.

Yesterday, in the throne speech, we were told that this government has been receiving input from northerners and from northern development councils. Yesterday, we saw that an advisory council will now be established to help identify—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member's time has expired. I would remind all members they have 90 seconds to make their statements at this time.

INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL

Mrs. Marland: Yesterday's release of this new Liberal government's agenda through the throne speech was littered with rhetorical acknowledgements and reannouncements directed at environmental concerns. We heard about the government's commitment to clean up the beaches and lakes, and I quote, "to prevent pollution before it starts."

There was no mention of the most serious problems of infrastructure renewal; no mention whatsoever of infrastructure renewal or of enhanced programs to upgrade our deteriorating and outdated water systems and sewage treatment facilities, the latter being the primary polluter of our beaches and waterfronts. If this change in policy is not formalized, we will be forever spending money after the fact and dealing with the consequences of environmental health and safety risks.

NONSMOKERS' PROTECTION

Mr. Sterling: Later this afternoon, I will introduce a private member's bill entitled—guess what?—the Non-Smokers' Protection Act. The bill was formerly known in the 33rd Parliament of Ontario as Bill 71. It received first reading, second reading, went through public hearings, was amended and it was returned to this House in January 1987 for third and final reading.

1410

This government found no fault in the bill and actually expressed support for the bill. On August 4, 1987, the Premier (Mr. Peterson), in writing to a constituent after the 33rd Parliament was dissolved, said the bill was still on the order paper. I take from his writing his support for this

piece of legislation and that he will instruct his House leader to call a Non-Smokers' Protection Act forthwith.

I congratulate the government in recognizing in yesterday's speech from the throne its desire for a health care system that emphasizes the prevention of illness and disease and the promotion of healthy living habits. Now is the time for action, not just talk. Will the government, which has not opposed any part of the Non-Smokers' Protection Act and in fact supported it, now have the intestinal fortitude to push this piece of legislation through the 34th Parliament, even though it is not its own initiative?

ORDER-IN-COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Breagh: I just want to take the occasion to remind this government of a little unfinished business from the previous Legislature. Members may recall that we talked about patronage and we talked about appointments in the public sector. We drafted a complaint committee report, adopted unanimously by the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly and, we thought, accepted by the Legislature by vote.

The government never did get around to finishing up the rest of that task. Now that it can gather up its courage—it has almost enough members to carry the day—why does the government not make that a priority for this new Legislature too?

Mr. Speaker: That completes the allotted time for members' statements.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

SCHOOL ACCOMMODATION

Hon. Mr. Ward: I rise to inform the Legislature of the decision of the tribunal appointed to resolve the accommodation dispute involving the public and separate school boards in Hamilton-Wentworth.

To alleviate overcrowding in the region's separate schools, the Hamilton-Wentworth Roman Catholic Separate School Board requested the transfer of five secondary schools from the Hamilton Board of Education and the Wentworth County Board of Education.

In spite of efforts by a mediator, the dispute could not be solved locally. On October 8, I announced the appointment of lawyer Stephen Goudge as a one-person tribunal to conduct hearings into the matter and provide a resolution. The appointment of tribunals to settle such differences is provided in Bill 30, which extended full funding to the Roman Catholic separate school system.

The accommodation question raised serious concerns in Hamilton-Wentworth. It was essential that the boards involved received an opportunity to be heard.

Following lengthy consideration of the parties' positions, the tribunal has determined that the needs for separate school accommodation in Hamilton-Wentworth can be met by the transfer of the use of Winona High School from the Wentworth board to the separate school board, the transfer of the use of Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School from the Hamilton board to the separate school board and the transfer of the use of Southmount Secondary School from the Hamilton board to the separate school board.

The tribunal has determined that the use of the facilities will be transferred over a two-year period beginning in September 1988.

The decision of Mr. Goudge is of fundamental importance. It is a product of the first such tribunal appointed in Ontario and it resolves a serious local issue.

I have forwarded this morning to the parties and their lawyers copies of the decision and the written reasons upon which it is based.

I shall proceed to sign an order establishing the main points of the tribunal's decision. I shall then file a copy of the order with the registrar of the Supreme Court of Ontario.

Copies of the decision are available to members of the Legislature on request from my office.

Permit me to express my sincere hope, shared by Mr. Goudge, that the parties in Hamilton-Wentworth will now work together in a productive and co-operative way to accept and implement the tribunal's decision for the betterment of the community and its students.

[Later]

Mr. R. F. Johnston: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I would like to raise with you the first point of order of probably a few that will follow in this session, under standing order 28(d). I know the minister is new to his job and perhaps that is the only reason he has offended the standing orders, as he seems to be doing.

Under that standing order, sir, it says clearly that "After any policy statement the minister shall table a compendium of background information." He has told us in his statement that he has forwarded to the lawyers, and the parties through the lawyers, copies of the decision and reasons. He is going to file a copy with the registrar of the Supreme Court, but he is making copies available only to the members in his office. Nothing has been tabled here for the

critics especially to have a look at to be able to respond in an adequate way to his statement today. I would suggest this is probably just an oversight, but we would certainly like to see this on the table before the afternoon is out.

Mr. Speaker: The member has raised a point of order. I am certain the minister will take close note of what has been said and will follow the standing orders.

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE

Hon. R. F. Nixon: In keeping with the promise made yesterday in the throne speech, I am pleased to inform the members that later today I will introduce the Ontario Automobile Insurance Board Act, 1987, and related amendments to the Compulsory Automobile Insurance Act.

This legislation provides for the establishment and operation of an independent automobile insurance board and for the creation by regulation of a uniform classification system for automobile insurance. In developing the legislation, we have looked at other boards to find the best precedents. Our insurance board will be effective in meeting the needs of Ontario consumers. It will be a made-in-Ontario board with a fair hearing process open to full public scrutiny.

The mandate of the Ontario Automobile Insurance Board will be to establish reasonable rates or rate ranges for all types of motor vehicle insurance within the risk classification system set by regulation and to hold public hearings on automobile insurance rates, inviting representations by all concerned parties.

The board will be led by a full-time chairperson and a panel of part-time members. The board will be supported by a secretariat which will maintain public information on rates and administer the public hearing process. The legislation provides that an insurer shall be required to set premiums on the basis of the prescribed classification system and that all rates charged by insurers must be approved by the board. The Facility Association must also apply for board approval of rates prepared by it under the Compulsory Automobile Insurance Act.

Consumer groups, individuals and companies will be able to present their case during public hearings conducted by the board. Until the board is established and sets benchmark rates, the act provides for the maintenance of automobile insurance rates at the levels in place on April 23, 1987.

I should remind the members that this bill forms part of our ongoing efforts to protect consumers and bring stability and equity to the motor vehicle insurance market.

Further initiatives include amendments to the Insurance Act to improve consumer protection and access to information, and a review of Mr. Justice Osborne's report on his Inquiry Into Motor Vehicle Accident Compensation in Ontario. In addition, my colleague the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Wrye) will be introducing, later in this session, the Motor Vehicle Repair Act.

In bringing forward substantial reforms related to automobile insurance, I recognize the importance of full public debate and consultation. It is my intention to provide a draft of the uniform classification system for public consultation prior to finalization of the regulations. I also recognize that the Ontario Automobile Insurance Board Act, 1987, warrants full consideration both in this House and in committee.

I look forward to working with members of the House to put into place, in a timely way, the legislative initiatives embodied in the bill I will introduce today.

In closing, I would like to remind the members that in a system where automobile insurance is mandatory, government has a duty to ensure that consumers receive fair coverage at a fair price. The creation of the Ontario Automobile Insurance Board will bring public accountability and greater fairness to automobile insurance rates.

METROPOLITAN TORONTO GOVERNMENT

Hon. Mr. Eakins: Today I wish to inform the Legislature of the government's plans to reform the government of Metropolitan Toronto. Metro Toronto, with a population of more than two million people, is Canada's largest, most important metropolitan area. Its government, which administers a budget of some \$2.5 billion, has been a model for other cities.

As most of you know, Metro's system of government has been the subject of considerable debate for several years. There have been many concerns about the Metro system.

The existing system by which Metro councillors are chosen is confusing to voters. Some municipalities send their boards of control to Metro council while others send municipal councillors. Voters do not know who does what.

Metro councillors currently sit on both Metro council and their local council. The growing demands on Metro council need the full attention

of Metro councillors. Voters have tended to concentrate on more locally focused issues at election time and there is concern that the Metro-wide issues are not properly addressed.

There is also concern about the way in which the Metro chairman is chosen. Currently the Metro chairman does not need to be elected. Furthermore, over the past several years, there have been shifts in Metro's population. Some municipalities are overrepresented on Metro council while others are underrepresented.

1420

To address these issues, I intend to introduce, within the next few weeks, legislation to reform Metropolitan Toronto's system of government.

This reform will accomplish two main goals: it will make Metro's government more accountable to voters, and it will establish a better framework for local government decision-making across Metro Toronto.

Let me briefly outline the changes we are proposing.

The new legislation will provide for 28 Metro councillors. They will sit only on Metro council and consider Metro-wide issues. These councillors will be directly elected from Metro wards: one from East York, four from Etobicoke, seven from North York, six from Scarborough, eight from Toronto and two from York.

Ward boundaries may have to be changed. We will consult with area municipalities on proposals for local wards that will accommodate the system we are introducing. Our staff will work with municipal staff to accomplish that as quickly and effectively as possible.

Under this system, for the first time, voters will be able to vote directly for Metro decision-makers. The system will be simpler. Voters will know who they are voting for to look after Metro issues and who they are voting for to look after local issues.

Those 28 Metro councillors will be joined by the mayors of the six municipalities that make up the Metropolitan Toronto federation. Linkages between Metro council and the local councils are an important feature of the existing system, and the mayors, with their city-wide and borough-wide perspective, will continue to provide that link.

The legislation I will be introducing also provides for a new method of choosing the Metro chairman. As I said earlier, the Metro chairman is chosen by Metro council. There is no requirement for him or her to face the electorate.

The new legislation calls for the chairman to be chosen by Metro council from among the

directly elected councillors. The Metro chairman would continue to sit as the representative of his or her Metro ward and would have to be re-elected every three years, just as any other Metro councillor would.

The new system will result in 28 new elected positions in Metro Toronto. We believe that increase is justified: consider Metro's size, its \$2.5-billion budget and the growing demand for more and different municipal services. However, we are sensitive to the concern among taxpayers about the increased costs associated with an increase in the total number of elected officials in Metro Toronto and we are taking steps to respond to that concern.

We plan to remove the legislative requirement for boards of control in the four area municipalities that still have them. Eliminating boards of control will allow area councils to decide how best to organize their committee structure to carry out their business. It will also reduce the total number of elected municipal officials in Metro by 14.

Area municipalities will be encouraged to review the size of their councils. After all, local municipal councillors will also benefit from having only one job to do.

I must emphasize, though, that while we intend to keep any increase in the number of locally elected positions to a minimum, our first concern is to set up a system of government that can deal effectively with the issues of the 21st century.

I want to stress that the legislation I will be introducing is the product of a long process of study and consultation.

The Metro system of government has served the area well for nearly 35 years and has been a model for other large metropolitan centres around the world. But circumstances are changing. The system must change along with them.

If this important reform is to be put in place before the next municipal elections, we must act now. I am making this announcement today, before the legislation is ready, to give the municipalities as much time as possible to think about the adjustments they will have to make.

The people of Metro deserve representatives at Metro council who can devote their full attention to important Metro issues. They deserve a government they can understand. They deserve a government they can hold accountable on election day. In short, they deserve the best system of government possible.

On a personal note, Metro government was initiated in 1953 by the then member for

Victoria-Haliburton, the Honourable Leslie Frost, and today I take some pride, as the member for Victoria-Haliburton, in introducing the first major amendments to that bill.

RESPONSES

SCHOOL ACCOMMODATION

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Even with the limited information that I have, I would like to respond to the minister. I have never let the facts get in my way, as members all know.

I just say that the first report by a tribunal following Bill 30 is of crucial importance to us. I think if one looks at the details of the request by the Catholic board and the opposing positions of the public boards, Mr. Goudge needed the wisdom of Solomon to come up with a response that would not require appeals. I am not sure that appeals will be avoided, but in some ways he may have been like Solomon in that I do not think either side in this dispute is going to be happy with the result. The Catholic board asked for five schools; they got one school that they asked for in particular. The public board wanted sharing of facilities, and as yet there is no notion of sharing of facilities brought forward by Mr. Goudge. One of the reasons I would like to see the compendium is to know his reasons for that.

In some ways I think it is very important that there not be seen to be winners on either side of this but that the process of negotiations for the transfer or the sharing of properties that has gone on in other jurisdictions should be seen by the parties out there to be the best route to follow. If they are going to rely on arbitrators, then nobody is going to be happy and they had better work out their own local solutions.

The final thing I would say, with regret again, to the new minister, is I feel that in the tone of his response, and also in things he said prior to the arbitrator coming down, he imposed his own view on what the solution might be. This is a dangerous thing when you consider that under Bill 30 the parties have the right to appeal, and appeal to cabinet, where obviously he will have some influence. I would just suggest to him that in future in arbitrations he would be wise to keep quiet until the arbitration is complete and then perhaps reserve his judgement until appeals have been heard.

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE

Mr. Swart: Neither you, Mr. Speaker, nor other members of the House will be surprised that I want to make some comments on the statement

tabled by the Minister of Financial Institutions (Mr. R. F. Nixon).

I would point out to him that when Mr. Kwinter originally introduced the bill on the last day the House sat in the last session, he showed his recognition of and embarrassment about the ineffectiveness of the bill by quietly introducing it without the traditional statement, which could be challenged by the opposition in the House. After all, he had stated previously in this House that if Ontario had had a rate control board—like Alberta, which has similar legislation to what is proposed—during the last five years, “The people of Ontario would have paid from eight to 39 per cent more than they pay now.”

The minister should be equally embarrassed because his bill is basically the same as Mr. Kwinter’s, but his statement is worse than Mr. Kwinter’s and it is worse than none. The bill is a sham and a backoff in many ways. It leaves a determination as to whether rate classifications based on age, sex and marital status shall be abolished to some future decision of the cabinet.

1430

On April 23, 1987, Mr. Kwinter committed, on behalf of the government, to abolish such classifications. So did the Premier (Mr. Peterson) on September 7, 1987. He said, according to the *Toronto Star*, that “if the Liberal government is returned to office in Thursday’s election, it will reintroduce legislation to freeze insurance rates and require rates to be set according to driver’s records, not age and sex.”

Now the minister in his statement is saying that he is backing off; in fact, he is going to have a consultation process on this—of course, consultation with the insurance industry. The government through its actions has made it clear that it is in the pocket of the powerful insurance lobby. Its recent actions provide further proof of the May 11, 1987, statement of the Insurance Brokers Association of Ontario, in which it said that “to a great degree both the Liberals and the Conservatives have been the defenders of the industry.”

I want to say that over the past year we in this party promised the people of Ontario we would fight for fair, just and driver-owned automobile insurance to replace the highway robbery the insurance companies are perpetrating on the drivers of Ontario. We have not let the powerful insurance interest get in our way and, by God, we will not let this bloated, lethargic and pro-industry government get in our way either. The fight is going to continue to get the drivers of this province the same kind of reasonable and nondiscriminatory automobile insurance that

drivers enjoy in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

I would like to remind all members—using the member for Welland-Thorold (Mr. Swart) as an example, who, when he was referring to other members in the House, referred to them by their surnames—that the proper way to refer to members would be by ministry or by constituency. I am sure the members will understand that.

Further responses?

METROPOLITAN TORONTO GOVERNMENT

Mr. Cousens: I have short and quick congratulations to the new Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Eakins), but it has not taken him or the government long to begin a whole new set of arrogance, a new way of approaching government in Ontario.

I have to tell them they have dropped a bombshell today by suggesting the kind of changes that they are about to introduce without having the time to go and talk to those people who are directly involved in Metro Toronto. The chairman and the election of that board are suddenly going to change significantly. I am asking why have they not put out a green paper to have some discussion on it, for people to find out just what it all means.

Mr. Breough: He has it in green, baby blue, pink; he has it on a roll—

Mr. Cousens: A red paper, a pink paper, a paper for people who are going to be affected by the change. They have not changed a bit. So that we can begin to see that they are really concerned about the people of Toronto, I have to challenge them to respond to a number of major questions.

One question is, who will the Metro chairman serve? He will have his own electors and he will also have Metro council. Let us look at that one.

How about local councils? What is going to happen to local councils in Toronto? Are they going to become second class? Not only in the case of Toronto, but all the Metro area, are they trying to put them into a second-class status? Are we talking about more bureaucracy and more confusion?

Why have they not begun this process with some good dialogue with the people in the first place, to involve those people in Metro Toronto who are going to be affected by this decision, rather than just coming along and arbitrarily suggesting some resolutions which they say are going to be thought over?

I am sure they have the legislation ready to drop right now. Why do they not just put it forward today so that we can begin to see what they are really up to?

SCHOOL ACCOMMODATION

Mr. Jackson: I am pleased to rise and offer my congratulations to the member for Wentworth North (Mr. Ward), Ontario's newest Minister of Education. He carries with him a very proud and long tradition of about 44 years of great Ministers of Education in this province, who on occasion have been equally controversial.

It is unfortunate that the minister in his first statement has seen fit to respond to a matter as important as the tribunal decision that has come from the Bill 30 legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I can assure you that all members of this House took no personal or political delight in having to read in the newspapers such headlines as "Board Blasts Minister's Comments" and "Didn't Ruin Hearings: Ward."

No one took particular delight in the fact that happened. What it has served to do is to illustrate for all members of this House in a nonpartisan way how significant and sensitive the issues around education in Ontario are today and will be for the next eight or nine years.

I hope the minister will also inspire all members of this House to know that Ontario, at least on the issue of education, will continue to be a hallmark for tolerance and understanding and an example for those who may not understand fully the importance and the intent of Bill 30.

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE

Mr. Harris: I look forward, as does the member for Welland-Thorold (Mr. Swart), to a full discussion on the legislation that is going to be introduced according to a statement from the Minister of Financial Institutions (Mr. R. F. Nixon). I will make only a couple of brief comments.

The statement says, "We will maintain automobile insurance rates at the levels in place on April 23, 1987." I wonder what rationale the government has for setting that as a rate. It talks about all the things that are necessary to arrive at what is going to be a fair and reasonable rate. Yet for a period of perhaps a year or a year and half, it says, "In spite of that, this will be the rate."

Many people think that rate is frozen at a higher level than even the insurance companies require. Many, however, feel it is perhaps a rate

that discourages companies from wanting to insure people, if it is too low.

The point of the matter is that it is ridiculous. I think they are both right in some examples, as the minister nods. The point is, it is silly and ridiculous to set a rate with no foundation while we are waiting for this piece of legislation.

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

Mr. Harris: On a point of order before we move on to question period: I think it is a rather serious point, Mr. Speaker, and at my conclusion I would ask you to consider two matters I think are important for this Legislature.

I point out a departure from 300 years of parliamentary tradition in the introduction of Bill 1, a very important bill, which I know we will have an interesting time debating and passing into law. With your extensive experience in the chair, I am sure you are aware that Bill 1, introduced following His Honour the Lieutenant Governor's speech, takes up business not referred to in the speech from the throne, thereby emphasizing the independence of this House from the crown and its right and responsibility to consider its own business ahead of the business of the crown.

You will remember, Mr. Speaker, that His Honour's speech, on page 27, section 9, highlighted the content and priority of Bill 1. I think it is regrettable, therefore, that the Premier (Mr. Peterson), the government House leader and the Attorney General (Mr. Scott), the three who were involved in this conspiracy, took away from parliamentary tradition and destroyed an important part of the tradition of yesterday's ceremony, and that we did not yesterday live up to what the government itself said we should be doing.

I refer to the program of proceedings that we had on the table yesterday. If you look at the bottom of the second page, it says: "Bill 1 will be introduced. The introduction of this bill at this time"—the reason for having the bill introduced on that day—"is to assert the right of the assembly to consider matters which are not mentioned in the speech from the throne." I think that is the only reason to have an introduction of a bill on the opening day of the session.

I ask you, Mr. Speaker, to consider two things: one, in view of the fact that this assembly's right to consider other business was not properly asserted yesterday, whether this assembly then does have the right in the future to do just that, namely, to consider any item of business not in the throne speech.

Second, I ask you to take time to consider whether the introduction of Bill 1 was in order in its own right, and if not, if it then has to be reintroduced at its proper time and place.

1440

Mr. Speaker: Are there any other comments on that point of order?

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Very briefly. I think the point that has been raised by the House leader for the third party is a legitimate point. I hope the government might respond. I know that over the last number of years Bill 1 has taken on more significance than when I was first elected 10 years ago, when it was always a very insignificant bill. It is very clear that the bill that was introduced yesterday was directly mentioned in the throne speech. I would like to hear an explanation from the government, but the very relevant question of whether the bill is in order should be ruled on by the Speaker.

Hon. Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, I know you will want to take the point raised by the member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris) under advisement. I want to say very directly that, as has been observed by the member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. D. S. Cooke), in recent years we have seen a change in the practice, that more significant legislation has been introduced as I recall in the role of Bill 1.

It might be useful to reflect back or at least look back to the situation in June 1985. I think we may have a precedent there, although obviously I would want to research that. I think it is important for me to say on behalf of the government that we view the conflict bill as a matter of priority. We have a busy agenda and we want to get on with important business that is before this province and before the assembly.

Mr. Harris: Mr. Speaker, may I just briefly respond and ask you take this into consideration?

Mr. Speaker: It really is not debate. You had the opportunity to raise the point, but if you have something, then briefly.

Mr. Harris: Yes, briefly. The government House leader has indicated that there may be a precedent. I think it is something you should take under advisement and look at. I would like to point out that the example he raises is not a precedent. However, it is something you should look at. In fact, the first half of my point of order was a similar point that was raised by the former House leader for the opposition, the member for Brant-Haldimand (Mr. R. F. Nixon). The response at that time—and it is all in here, and that is what I was reading from—the response from the

government House leader at that time, a Mr. Grossman, concurred and agreed with his learned colleague that in fact he was quite right and there was an error made in 1985.

Why the precedent never went any further, Mr. Speaker, and should be looked at, is if you look at that occasion, Bill 1 at that time was never further debated; therefore, whether it was in order or not for it to be debated did not come up. That is one of the things you should consider.

Two, there were no other items that were considered by that government other than the throne speech, for obvious reasons. I think you will recall that on that particular occasion, upon the conclusion of the voting of that throne speech, there was not much opportunity for the government of the day to consider anything else.

I would point that out, and I would also say something that is important in making your decision—

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Mr. Harris: Well, I am telling you why it is even more appropriate—

Mr. Speaker: Are you? Because you are just reviewing what you had said before; so if you are—

Mr. Harris: We are now in a majority government situation where the rights and privileges of minority parties and all members of this House must be respected, and these decisions are very important. Rulings will be made, Mr. Speaker, on parliamentary tradition and those rulings will be very significant in the future of this parliament and in the rights of those of us who are in a minority, either party-wise or as individual members. I ask you to reflect on that as you take into consideration those two points I have raised.

Mr. Speaker: I have listened very carefully to all members who have spoken on this point of order. I feel that because I am a great believer in tradition and have tried my best to maintain many of the traditions in this institution, I will reserve judgement on what has been said today and requested.

ORAL QUESTIONS

TRADE WITH UNITED STATES

Mr. B. Rae: I have a question for the Premier. On many occasions in this House in the last two and one half years, he has stated categorically that it is his view that Ontario has a veto with respect to the free trade agreement. If the Premier does not agree with what I have said, perhaps I can refer to him the statement he made in the

House on January 29, 1987, when he was discussing with me a conversation he had with Mr. Yeutter, the ambassador for trade of the United States.

He said, and it is on page 5009 of Hansard, "We explained to him"—that is, to Mr. Yeutter—"that the provinces, in our view, would have a veto over the implementation of any trade pact."

On another date, on February 2, 1987, in the course of an exchange in the House, at page 5078 in Hansard, the Premier said, "I have said I believe we have a de facto veto over the implementation of this situation at the appropriate time."

The question I have for the Premier is simply this: Is it still his view that the government of Ontario, the province of Ontario, has an effective veto over the Mulroney-Reagan trade pact; and if that is still his view, when is he going to exercise that veto?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Let me explain to my honourable friend. As he knows, when the discussion started out with respect to a trade agreement there were a number of things being discussed that were under provincial jurisdiction. I can give my honourable friend some examples. Beer was one of those potential areas which everyone recognizes is under provincial jurisdiction. I think I discussed this particular question on many occasions in this House and outside of this House.

I said that in fact if there are things under provincial jurisdiction then de facto the provinces and de jure the provinces have a veto because they do not have to implement it. Now, the deal that finally appeared on the scene is much different than the deal that was originally contemplated. My honourable friend will be aware that very few things—my honourable friend is wagging his head as if he was there. I can tell him he is wrong, because I was there and I have some understanding of how the deal was originally contemplated and as to how it turned out.

I say to him that the only areas where we have legal jurisdiction is in those areas that touch our power's constitution.

We are doing a complete analysis of the situation at the moment to see which areas of provincial jurisdiction could be covered in this agreement. For example, we are looking at the question of services and things of that sort. One of the obvious ones my friend will draw my attention to is the question of wine markups. He will advance the case that that particular issue

could hold up the implementation of the entire deal.

Again, that is a complicated issue. We are looking at all aspects of that to see where we have direct legal influence and where we do not. I should say in summary, and my honourable friend would be aware, that the federal government under our Constitution has the power to conclude treaties with foreign governments, not the provinces.

Mr. B. Rae: We have been through election campaigns, we have seen political advertisements for the Liberal Party. I can remember them distinctly; the ones that said that if such and such happens, no deal. If it touches the auto pact, no deal. If it affects this culture, no deal. The Premier did not once say during the course of that election campaign: "I am only talking about those narrow areas. I am now speaking as a narrow constitutional lawyer."

Not only did he not say it during the election campaign, but he did not say it on many other occasions. In particular, I would like to ask him, with respect to the auto pact—the Premier had many conversations in this House with respect to the auto pact—when he was speaking in the House on January 29, 1987, saying it was his view that Ontario had a de facto veto, he was referring specifically to the auto pact and not to anything else.

Therefore, I would like to ask the Premier whether he still stands by these words which he is quoted as having said: "Asked whether he would exercise this power"—that is to say, the power to veto—"if the auto pact were threatened, he told reporters, 'The answer is very clearly yes.' The Premier added, 'There is no way I would allow the situation to develop that would change the auto pact to the detriment of the province of Ontario.'"

Is that still his position or is he now, after his election, singing a completely different tune? If it is his position, when is he going to exercise that effective veto on behalf of the workers of this province?

1450

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I think my honourable friend, presumably as the constitutional lawyer and scholar that he is, would understand this issue better than he lets on in this House. As I said to him, it is a fact, and he knows it and I know it, that the federal government has the right to make foreign treaties. Where we have an influence is if certain implementing legislation is necessary in our areas of provincial jurisdiction.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: You sang a different tune in your election speech in Windsor.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I think other people understood it; now maybe I made a mistake. I assume a reasonable level of knowledge on these things. Perhaps I misjudged it in his particular case in understanding it. Very clearly, we are looking at all the areas that would impact on provincial jurisdiction, the influence that we have and whether enabling legislation will be called forth. At that point, we do in fact have powers to exercise in this province.

Mr. B. Rae: I think it is fair to say to the Premier that the election campaign, as in his entire presentation of this issue leading up to the election campaign for the past two and a half years, has been a complete and total fraud. The song he is singing today is a completely different song from the one he has been singing to the people of the province for the last two and half years—completely and utterly different.

When there was talk that it was going to be on the table he said, "No, no, I have been assured it should not be there." He said to those of us who were criticizing his position: "Do not worry. I have got the matter well in hand. Nothing is going to happen that is going to hurt the auto pact." With respect to the auto pact, after he sat back and did nothing for two and a half years, is he now admitting that he is in fact powerless to do anything with respect to the auto pact in Ontario? Is that what he is now admitting?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: My honourable friend will be aware that the auto pact originally was negotiated by the federal government. I am sure the member is aware of that. There is nothing profound about this. I assumed he knew that already. But we are engaged now in a great national debate and I think the federal government knows very clearly where we stand on these issues.

Mr. B. Rae: The Premier has run an election campaign based on an entirely fraudulent basis.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Are you placing your second question to the Premier?

WINE INDUSTRY

Mr. B. Rae: I was just getting warmed up, Mr. Speaker. I am placing my second question to the Premier. The Premier has now admitted that he basically has operated in the last two and a half years on a basis that is not in keeping with his own view now of his constitutional power and not in keeping with what he said to the people he would do on behalf of Ontario. He has indicated

today that he is in fact breaking the solemn commitment and the mandate he said he needed to win when he called the election in the first place.

I would like to ask the Premier specifically to deal with an area which is under his jurisdiction. He will be aware there are grape producers today not very far from this House, roughly 900 or 1,000 strong in Ontario, whose jobs depend on specific provincial legislation with respect to the Wine Content Act and whose eventual markets with respect to wine depend to a considerable extent on the ability of the provincial government to regulate the sale of wine in Ontario.

Since the Premier is now indicating there is nothing he can do with respect to anything else, does he intend to do something with respect to an area which clearly is within his jurisdiction? He will also know that the provisions of the Wine Content Act changed—

Mr. Speaker: Order. You did place the question.

Mr. B. Rae: Mr. Speaker, if I may pose it to the Premier, with your permission, my question to the Premier very specifically is this: Can the government give a guarantee to the grape growers of this province that they will continue to have markets guaranteed by the province for the grapes they are producing?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The simple answer to his question is no. I will tell my honourable friend why. I am sure he is perhaps aware of it. He will understand that the grape growers at the present time are under assault from three areas—and the wineries depending on the nature of the Wine Content Act:

Number 1, the so-called free trade agreement. The member is quite right. We do have the power to implement those markets.

Number 2, a General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade panel. The member knows that the entire question of wine and beer distribution across this country has been under review, and we expect a decision on that in the very near future.

Number 3, a 301 trade action in the United States threatening retaliatory action against our distilling industry, which, as my honourable friend will be aware, is much larger, relatively speaking, than the wine industry in this province.

The grape growers understand these questions and they understand the complexity of the situation we are in. They are under assault from all three sides at the moment.

I say to the member, and I say to them, that we are not prepared to stand by and see them

abandoned. They are important people in our province and we are going to be working with them to try to find solutions. But I say to my honourable friend, when we look at it in a broad context—and I am sure he understands the ramifications of GATT hearings as well as 301 actions in the United States—that it is a more complicated issue than it would appear at first glance.

Mr. B. Rae: We are now seeing more clearly than ever before how the leopard changes its spots. I cannot imagine a clearer example of a government and the leader of a government telling the people of the province a completely different reality than the one he was prepared to talk about over the last two and a half years, specifically with respect to this matter.

I would like to ask the Premier, in those questions which clearly fall under his power and his provincial jurisdiction, is he going to guarantee that in 1988, in so far as it is within his power to do so, the grape growers of this province will have access to wineries? Many of them are concerned that they are going to have no access unless the provincial government clearly stands up and fights on their behalf. Is the Premier going to stand up and fight for them? That is the question.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The answer is, of course. I refer my honourable friend back to my first answer. We are not prepared to stand by and see our tender fruit area paved over.

I understand the problems of the wineries as well as the grape growers, which are different but related in some respects. We are working very closely with both those groups, as my honourable friend will be aware. They are aware also of the other problems they are facing, independent of the so-called trade agreement. I say to the member, as I say to them, we are prepared as a government to work with those people to find solutions to the real problems they are facing at the moment.

Mr. B. Rae: Perhaps we are allowed to ask—because in my meetings with the grape growers they have not been particularly impressed with what the government of Ontario is going to be doing or has said it is going to be doing on their behalf. If the Premier wants names and dates of meetings, I can give them to him. They are as recent as 10 days ago and as recent as yesterday.

I would like to ask the Premier specifically: Is it the government's intention to maintain in force the effect of the Wine Content Act for 1987, 1988 and into the foreseeable future, and is it the

intention of the Premier and of the government of Ontario to ensure that grape growers in this province will have a guaranteed access to the wineries? They sell 37,000 tons of grapes a year to the wineries in Ontario. That market is protected by the Wine Content Act. Is that still going to be the law in Ontario or is it not? Surely they are entitled to that answer.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Even if that continued as the law in the province, there is no guarantee it will save them from some of the other problems we are having at the present time. My honourable friend surely must understand the complications of this situation in the province. I can assure him when I have talked to the grape growers—and I have talked to them on many occasions—they say strange things about him as well. I am not sure he understands all the complications that are at work here.

I say to my honourable friend, we are prepared to do everything we can to assist the grape growers and we are searching together for those solutions.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. There are other members wishing to ask questions. New question, the member for Sarnia.

[Applause]

Mr. Brandt: I acknowledge the applause of my colleagues in the House. I know full well it will be the last time and I thank them.

1500

GENERAL MOTORS OF CANADA LTD

Mr. Brandt: I have a question for the Premier with respect to the announcement that appeared in today's paper in connection with General Motors and the proposed layoff of some 3,000 workers. I want to tell the Premier that I have in fact received confirmation within the last few moments that the intent is to go ahead with the layoff. I want to bring to his attention that some months ago our party brought to the attention of the then Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology the problem of very severe overcapacity in the auto industry. We indicated to the Premier and his government at that time that there should be some steps taken to prepare for what appeared to be a severe problem in the auto industry as it relates to the overcapacity question.

Can he tell me what his government intends to do by way of anything in the throne speech or any measures that it has that he could bring to respond to this problem that may assist in these particular layoffs?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: My honourable friend the leader of a truly free enterprise party would not want me to go in and nationalize the automotive industry I am sure. My honourable friend will be aware that it has been an area where there has been a lot of speculation, the overcapacity in North America with respect to vehicle assembly. My honourable friend will be aware that there has been a major closedown by General Motors in the United States at the same time that a \$2-billion investment has gone into Oshawa. Obviously, these things are in response to the market.

I am not sure my honourable friend would be advocating that they build cars they cannot sell, unless my honourable friend has a new message that he would like me to convey to the president of General Motors of Canada. These are market responses. We will obviously work with the company and the workers to assist in every single way we can, but it is part of the normal cycle in the automotive industry. Our job is to make sure we fight to protect the industry that we have, because many people are projecting a major downsizing in the automotive industry because of overcapacity over the next several years. We have to make sure we hang on to our share of the jobs that exist.

Mr. Brandt: There was not much hope in that response for the 3,000 workers who may be laid off, but let me just tell the Premier that during the course of our debate on this issue back in June 1987, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology at that time said that we should not really have any concerns about this problem because in fact the auto industry was as healthy as it had ever been during the course of the two years the Liberal government had been in power up until that point in time.

Mr. Harris: He said there were no problems.

Mr. Brandt: "No problems. Do not worry about it. You are raising fears that are totally unfounded." Since our fears were supposedly unfounded back in the summer of 1987, we think our fears are very well founded based on the announcement today, which has in fact been confirmed by General Motors. I simply ask the Premier what action his government is prepared to take to assist in this problem, which he should have known about in the summer of 1987. He should have foreseen it was coming prior to that by many months because of the number of reports on overcapacity. He has done absolutely nothing on this problem. What is he prepared to do now?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I would tell my honourable friend that the unemployment level is below six per cent and is continuing to drop; one of the best records in North America. I think if my honourable friend really analyses what he is saying, he will realize that the suggestions he is putting forward here today, whatever they are, are silly. He will recognize, because I gather he used to occupy that portfolio at one point in his previous incarnation, that there are cycles in these situations.

I say to the member, what did he do when he was minister to plan because he knew there were layoffs coming on? What did he do? He knows these things are a normal part of the situation. It is a function of markets. We are still maintaining our share in North America. Obviously, a lot of us are concerned about the future, but I cannot predict with certainty when the layoffs will come. We have adjustment programs in place to assist when we can.

Mr. Brandt: I have to say that the 3,000 workers who may not have a job will not think the question is all that silly. Those workers are looking for some action on the part of this government to protect their jobs or to find some way, since he had all kinds of time to think about it, to respond to a very real problem that is extremely significant in the areas of General Motors' plants.

I ask the Premier again, is he prepared to have his minister look at the question, to try to resolve the problem, to look at the issue of overcapacity and see if there is some rational way in which his government can respond to what I see and my colleagues see as a very real problem?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The honourable member will know that the minister is always looking at these questions and always working closely with the industry. If he is telling me that we should have prevented these layoffs somehow or other, then I am sure the honourable member would realize that, frankly, what he is saying does not hold water.

If he has a specific suggestion of how those layoffs could have been prevented, he can stand up in the House and share it with us.

TRANSFER PAYMENTS

Mr. Brandt: I have a question for the Treasurer. It is in connection with some of the comments that the Treasurer made relative to transfer payments to hospitals, to municipalities and to school boards and other bodies that receive transfer payments from the province.

At a time when there was great uncertainty in the stock market, when there were a number of spokesmen, a number of leading government officials who were attempting to calm the waters and to bring some sense of sanity into the whole debate on what was happening with the economy, why would the Treasurer pick that particular moment to muse on about the question of whether he would be able to maintain the level of transfer grants to these respective institutions, such as municipalities, school boards and hospitals?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I am sure the honourable member, who would read those comments as carefully as he could, would realize there was no indication of any reduction in those grants; none at all.

As a matter of fact, we are very proud of the fact that the economy has been strong and continues to be strong. The Premier has just indicated that the unemployment levels are below six per cent and continue to drop and that our real growth in percentage terms outstrips almost all of the jurisdictions in North America.

We are very proud of our rate of job creation. We do not take credit for it as a government, but we are proud of the fact that Ontario's economy has grown and continues to grow.

I certainly think that the Treasurer or anybody else, as a member of this Legislature, would not be doing his or her duty if he did not indicate that we are going into a period of some uncertainty. There is no reflection of this in any way in the province, as yet, but it is obvious that when we make projections well in advance of budgetary periods, for our transfer partners—something that the former ministry never did, often waiting until the transfer partners, such as school boards and municipalities, were well into their budgetary period before they ever decided what sort of assistance they would give.

My point is that because we do want to give this well in advance, then it is incumbent upon me to indicate what is going to be available to them for the next fiscal year, which in some instances begins January 1 and in some instances begins April 1.

Mr. Brandt: Perhaps the Treasurer does not think he gave the impression that there may be some cutbacks or some reductions in the level of those transfers, but I want to tell him that in newspaper columns in local areas throughout this province, there were questions raised of various officials, asking what their response would be to any reduction in government grants or in government transfers.

How can the Treasurer stand up and say that he did not in any way, shape or form give the indication or transfer or telegraph the message to all of these people that in fact there may well be some reduction in the transfers of those particular moneys? I just do not understand.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I do not recall any occasion when I have ever been misquoted, but there are many occasions when people might misunderstand what I say.

Certainly, there was no indication of anything being frozen, other than that this Treasurer and my colleagues are looking at the future with a fiscally responsible outlook to maintain the programs that we have, under our initiative, allowed and very properly allowed to grow at a rate much faster than in the years when the honourable member was a part of the administration of the province.

We are proud of what we have accomplished and we want to build on that. There is not a person here who would say it should not be done in a fiscally responsible and prudent way.

Mr. Brandt: The fiscal responsibility the minister is talking about has resulted in his not meeting his target in terms of budget objectives and in terms of what he has established for his own objectives over the past couple of years he has been Treasurer.

The reality is that he does not have a target objective that he has been able to meet. He has overshot the mark on all occasions.

Let me ask, by way of my final supplementary, will the Treasurer today stand up in this House and give a clear message to those institutions, municipalities, hospitals and school boards that he does in fact intend to retain the level of transfer grants that he had suggested earlier and that he is not in fact going to change that as a result of some forecast which he has no detail of in the future?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: It is not possible at this time to make any commitment other than to say to the honourable member that the Treasurer, as is our custom, will be making a statement to the House for the benefit of all the members and, through the members, all of our transfer agencies that depend on our level of financing, an indication in good time as to what we will be able to do for them in supporting their important programs, their essential programs, for the coming fiscal year.

1510

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE

Mr. Swart: My question is to the Minister of Financial Institutions, and he will know, as does

everyone else, of the interminable delays his government has created in order to avoid solving the problems that are inherent in the private automobile insurance system that we have in the province. Study after study has been undertaken while drivers of Ontario continue to be forced into an arbitrary and unjust private insurance system.

I want to find out from him if there is going to be a further delay. Will he recall that the order in council which created the Inquiry Into Motor Vehicle Accident Compensation in Ontario required Mr. Justice Osborne to report to the minister by November 1, 1987? Is there going to be a delay? Has Mr. Justice Osborne delivered his report to the minister? If so, when will he table it? If not, when does he expect to get it?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I expect the report from Mr. Justice Osborne in the near future.

Mr. Swart: I have heard "the near future" for two years and I am getting a little sceptical about the near future.

The minister has studied, of course, and will have when the report comes in, every aspect of the auto insurance business but one. He has studiously avoided commissioning an independent comparison of automobile insurance in Ontario with automobile insurance in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia.

If the minister believes that his friends in the insurance industry are right and that we in the New Democratic Party are wrong about the western plans being superior, then I challenge him to prove it. Will he commission an independent study that will prove to the people of Ontario beyond any doubt who has the least expensive, most efficient and fairest automobile insurance system programs, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia or Ontario?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, I am sure you are aware—the honourable member indicated in his question that he is aware—that we have availed ourselves of the very best advice in preparing the legislation that we are putting before the House. If he considers our recent exercises in the democratic process an unnatural delay, then I cannot help him.

In fact, Mr. Justice Osborne and others have been working diligently in preparing their views. When they are available, they will certainly be influential on government policy and they will be made available to all honourable members as soon as practicable.

TRANSFER PAYMENTS

Mr. Harris: I have a question for the Treasurer, who was very proud recently, in his

response to a question from the leader, about how he meets all these targets and he is right on target. Of course, in his two previous fiscal years, the only true measure we have of his record, he has never been close to the spending target.

Recently the Premier (Mr. Peterson) indicated that Liberals could not afford to keep their election promises, and we have seen that; and, of course, the throne speech omitted a bunch of them. The Treasurer, whether he did it inadvertently or was misquoted or was misunderstood, certainly left the impression that he may not be able to afford to meet municipal health and education transfer commitments for the next year. On top of that we now have a throne speech full of new promises. Could the Treasurer tell us what it will cost to implement those promises?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: The honourable member, coming from Nipissing, is in a singularly untenable position when he talks about our cutting back on public expenditure. I would think that a substantially large share has finally been allocated towards his part of the world, with the location of an entirely new ministry and a brand-new courthouse, just to list two of the things that come to mind. But the proposals in the speech from the throne will be accomplished in the budget of Ontario now, together with the budgetary statement that I hope to give to the House, God willing, some time in the spring of 1988.

Mr. Harris: I am not surprised that the Treasurer does not know what these things cost because, whether it is campaigning, throne speeches or whatever it does, fiscal responsibility has not been a priority with this government. I am shocked, I am disappointed, but I am not surprised.

If the Treasurer knows what any of the items in the throne speech will cost, could he tell us when he might be able to provide the cost of any of those individual items? If he cannot answer that, perhaps the suggestion is that when this throne speech was drafted, the Treasurer and Treasury officials in fact were not even consulted, which is what I understand he tells me if he does not know anything about any of the costings. He just dreams these things up and then worries later about whether he can pay for them or not.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I am not sure whether there was a question there, but I have an answer. The honourable member is being critical of our fiscal responsibility. While it is not a very good benchmark to compare it with, I simply recall the record when he was a cabinet minister and supporting a Conservative administration on this

side, when its cash requirements were well above \$2 billion and when its programs were unnecessarily constraining for our universities, our schools, our hospitals, our municipalities, as a matter of fact people right across the province.

I am glad to report to you, Mr. Speaker, that we have been able to turn that around, and in the last budget we not only reduced taxes but we reduced the cash requirements to well below \$1 billion, a point where it has not be for many, many years under the Conservative administration.

HANDGUN REPLICAS

Mr. Neumann: My question is for the Attorney General. On October 3, a Brantford man, Hubert Corbett, was shot to death by a Brantford police officer who believed his life was threatened when a realistic replica of a Colt Python .357-calibre Magnum revolver was pointed at him. The coroner's jury which investigated this tragedy has recommended that the manufacture and sale of these realistic handgun replicas be banned.

In view of the fact that these replicas can be purchased in almost any department store and needless deaths or injuries can result, will the Attorney General recommend to his federal counterpart that these so-called toys be banned under the Hazardous Products Act?

Hon. Mr. Scott: I would like to thank the honourable member for his question and say that, as he knows, the Criminal Code provides that the utilization of an imitation weapon is an offence under section 85 of the Criminal Code. His question focuses on manufacture and sale, and I think the question recognizes that national regulation of this enterprise is appropriate. I will, as he suggests, be communicating the coroner's jury determination to the Attorney General of Canada.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Neumann: In view of the fact that tragedies such as the one which occurred in Brantford should be avoided, if at all possible, would the minister undertake to consult with his colleagues the Solicitor General (Mrs. Smith) and the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Wrye) to ensure that at least at this level of government we have done all that we can to avoid such unavoidable tragedies?

Hon. Mr. Scott: I will be glad to look into it, but I am not satisfied, frankly, that a prohibition of manufacturing imitations in Ontario, even if it

could be constitutionally undertaken, is the resolution of the problem in a country where at least within the country there is free trade in goods. I think the honourable member is right when he focuses his attention on federal legislation like the Hazardous Products Act and I will bring his concerns to the attention of the Attorney General of Canada. I thank him for the question.

1520

WATER POLLUTION

Mrs. Grier: I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. I have lots of questions for the Minister of the Environment, but today I would like to ask him about the 1986 Report on Industrial Discharges to Ontario Waterways, which his ministry released last week.

Figures in that report show that 101 out of 154 industries violated the minister's water pollution guidelines and that in 1986 more industries failed to meet annual average limits than in 1985. It appears that under this minister we are going from bad to worse, and before the minister tells me that the municipal-industrial strategy for abatement is going to solve the problems, I would like to remind him that MISA does not become fully operational until 1990; that obviously MISA is not seen as any threat by the industries in this province, because they are not beginning to comply to this—

Mr. Speaker: And the question is?

Mrs. Grier: I would like the minister to tell the House what he intends to do about this between now and 1990 to make sure that our waterways do not continue to be contaminated.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: I want to take the opportunity, first of all, to congratulate the member for Etobicoke-Lakeshore on her reappointment to the position of Environment critic for the New Democratic Party, a position she handled extremely well last time around, and to say that it certainly allows me to have the opportunity to be kept on my toes, as I know the new critic for the Progressive Conservative Party will do.

Mr. Speaker: What about the responses?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: Dealing specifically with—

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: There are many interjections. The rules say that I must answer the question—and I think it is a very good question that the member has asked—and the answer is the following—

Mr. Pouliot: Take it under advisement.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: No. The member has addressed an ongoing concern, I guess. As she would know, the method that we use to do our testing and so on is an extremely extensive one. In fact, we go far beyond the International Joint Commission requirements in looking at the number of discharges that we do.

In addition to that, in order for a company or a municipality to pass the test, they must be 100 per cent perfect. In other words, they cannot fail in any particular month of the year on a yearly basis. We are not in a position of granting exceedances, for instance, as they would in adjacent municipalities.

Mr. Pouliot: He's getting worse.

Mrs. Caplan: He's just getting warmed up.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: No, I think the member understands this detail in it. She has identified the municipal-industrial strategy for abatement as being the cornerstone of the efforts of this government to deal with and substantially change the whole philosophy of dealing with discharges.

In the interim, and I think that is what the member is addressing specifically in her question, I have—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Supplementary?

Mrs. Grier: Supplementary to what, Mr. Speaker? But let me try.

My question was indeed about in the interim. I think the minister will find that all members of this House think that in the interim it is his responsibility to enforce those guidelines and those regulations that we have.

In the report I referred to in my question, it shows that 101 out of 154 industrial dischargers violated the minister's requirements; that the dischargers exceeded their individual monthly limit 963 times out of 9,372 occasions monitored and that 35 of the 101 violators were under voluntary or imposed control orders, but as of July 1987, only eight charges had been laid by the minister.

I would like the minister to explain to this House: Is that going to be the pattern of enforcement and maintenance of the regulations that do exist from now until that day when MISA comes, and can he explain why only eight charges were laid out of a possible 66?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: As the member would know, one of the reasons that we brought in the municipal-industrial strategy for abatement is that guidelines are, in my view, virtually useless in dealing with legal situations. As she knows,

you cannot go into court and charge somebody for the violation of our guidelines. That is why guidelines are not useful to us. She would recognize that they are enforced if they are standards.

One of the important components of the municipal-industrial strategy for abatement, our new water pollution regulation, is that we will therefore be able to enforce because we will have specific standards. Now we have to prove specific damage to the environment by any particular discharge before there can be a charge that will be substantiated in court.

I have instructed officials of the Ministry of the Environment to visit every one of those plants that have been in violation, to instruct the people in those plants first of all to undertake best management processes, changes which are going to eliminate a number of the violations, as I would call them even though they are only guidelines; and in addition to that, to revisit on any of the control orders that are in effect to determine whether they must be strengthened or widened. Of course, whenever we do that, it is under the public consultation process.

I think this is going to have a marked effect, but there is no question, as the member would know, that the very significant turnaround in this province will come with the municipal-industrial strategy for abatement, which will finally put teeth in what we have. The member contributed, along with members of the opposition, to a new piece of legislation, Bill 112, which has been applied to a number of other areas.

CONFLICT-OF-INTEREST GUIDELINES

Mr. Eves: I have a question for the Premier. My question is in the area of conflict of interest. That is an area in which he has had some substantial and very real experience over the last two and a half years. Under what guidelines or rules of conduct with respect to conflict of interest were members of the Premier's cabinet recently appointed?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Under the rules as established in the legislation we put forward that was not passed. The Attorney General (Mr. Scott) will have a statement on that tomorrow.

Mr. Eves: I presume that the Premier is aware that as of a few moments ago no disclosure statements were indeed filed with the Clerk of the House, despite the fact that the draft legislation that he refers to requires that filing within 30 days of appointment to cabinet.

One has to wonder how the Premier can appoint individuals to cabinet on the basis of

proposed legislation, especially legislation that the last Legislature had some very real concerns about, legislation that in all probability will go to committee and, hopefully, will be strengthened.

Would not the more prudent course of action be to comply with existing conflict guidelines? Or does the Premier think that because he has 45 extra members he can somehow circumvent the elected members of the Legislature?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: We brought forward the act in the last session, and a variety of members opposite decided not to pass it. That is fair enough. I told the member before that would be our operating principle, and that indeed is our operating principle. Those are the guidelines we are operating under, and I will invite the member to scrutinize everything on the basis of them.

YOUNG OFFENDERS

Mr. Farnan: My question is to the Attorney General, as the minister responsible for the justice system in Ontario. In a report in today's *Globe and Mail*, Judge Felstiner and Judge Scullion claim that 16- and 17-year-old young offenders are being treated more harshly under the Young Offenders Act than when they were prosecuted in the adult court system. This viewpoint was reinforced by Miriam Pinchuk, a court liaison officer with the Ontario Ministry of Correctional Services.

Is the Attorney General in possession of any studies that examine the different sentencing practices, and will he table these in the House? If such studies are not available for Ontario, will the Attorney General recommend that such studies be undertaken at the earliest possible opportunity?

Hon. Mr. Scott: I would like to thank the honourable member for his question and say that there are no studies of which I am aware that document the point that the judges referred to in the *Globe and Mail* this morning. But I think, anecdotally, it can be demonstrated that for two reasons the conclusions of the judges are probably factually correct.

The first reason has to do with the proof of prior sentence. As the honourable member would know, when a person is to be sentenced, regard is normally had to whether he has been convicted of a previous similar offence. Under the old Juvenile Delinquents Act, because the only offence under that statute was one of juvenile delinquency, it was not possible to prove that there was a prior similar offence. Under the Young Offenders Act, it is possible to prove that

and I think, anecdotally, you could demonstrate that has increased sentences.

The second reason that the judges gave is simply that under the Juvenile Delinquents Act there was a limited number of orders that could be made. There was no order that parallels, for example, the young offender order to open custody, and as a result, the judges have begun to use the open custody provision. Therefore, people who would have been sent home under the Juvenile Delinquents Act, and therefore not sentenced in a traditional sense, are sent home or to a group home under open custody.

1530

Mr. Farnan: Will the Attorney General, in the light of the discriminatory practices under the present system, exercise his responsibility in order to bring a greater sense of fairness and justice to this whole area of difference in sentencing practices by recommending the integration of all young offenders under one ministry, namely, the Ministry of Community and Social Services?

Hon. Mr. Scott: I am perfectly aware that the Minister of Correctional Services (Mr. Ramsay) and the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney), who are responsible for those matters—that is, the disposition of young offenders after conviction—are considering and will consider the honourable member's request. It is not a matter that the Ministry of the Attorney General has any control over.

SCHOOL FUNDING

Mr. Jackson: I have a question for the Minister of Education and would like to call upon him to assist the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) in costing out yesterday's throne speech. In that document there was reference to one of the election promises that it appears the ministry will pursue. That has to do with the reduction of class sizes in grades 1 and 2 from a previous level of 30 to a new level of 20.

In the minister's campaign commitment, he referred to the hiring of 4,000 new teachers. I would like to ask the minister how much new capital or new money the minister will provide to build the additional classrooms for 4,000 new classes which he will be creating by that announcement.

Hon. Mr. Ward: First, I want to congratulate my colleague the member for Burlington South on his appointment. I know his background in education in Halton county is extensive, and I am sure he will provide some constructive input into

education issues over the course of the next few months.

With regard to the extensive commitments that were made in yesterday's throne speech to elementary education in this province, currently work is under way in the ministry examining the implications and formulating the policies and proposals to begin implementation of the reduction of classroom sizes. That whole process will involve an extensive analysis of the capital implications as well as the operational costs, and I am quite certain that the funds will be made available in the forthcoming budget to institute these improvements.

Mr. Jackson: Let me indicate that the minister is doing very well in being vague on these matters. It is clear that the Premier (Mr. Peterson), I understand, had one full day's notice in terms of establishing that 4,000 teachers would be required to honour the campaign commitment. It seems that it is taking this minister over three months in order to determine its impact, and yet school boards are going into the budgetary process almost immediately. What those boards are concerned about, what this House is concerned about and what parents across Ontario are concerned about is that under his government, the number of portables used in our education system has increased by 39 per cent since 1985; it has gone from approximately 110,000 students in portables to 154,000 pupils now relegated to portables.

Will the minister promise the parents of this province that this reduction of class sizes will not result in thousands of additional students being put in portables, that they will be provided with the necessary capital to construct new pupil places?

Hon. Mr. Ward: I can tell my honourable colleague that the government is committed to flow the necessary funds to implement the proposals that were contained within the throne speech. I would also indicate that the government does recognize that indeed the reduction in classroom size will have a significant impact in terms of capital allocations throughout the province, capital allocations that my good friend knows full well have been tripled over the course of the last three years in an effort to renew the capital facilities within this province, which were in a serious state of decline for a number of years.

FIRESTONE CANADA INC.

Mr. Mackenzie: A question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology: Does the minister understand the concern and despair of

the workers at Firestone in Hamilton who cannot make firm plans to get on with their lives or take other jobs because they simply do not know what is happening to their employment of many years? They have reached the stage where they really feel there is either some movement or people get off the pot.

Can the minister tell this House exactly what is the current state of the negotiations and assure the workers that the so-called talks that are going on are not really just a charade for the parties involved?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: I thank the member for his question. I am sure the member knows that serious negotiations are taking place between Cooper Tire and Rubber Co. and the Firestone rubber company. I am satisfied after meeting with various parties involved in the transaction that they are serious. I should tell members that I had planned to be in Ottawa this afternoon to have a meeting with the Honourable Mr. de Cotret on this very subject and have had to postpone it because of what I anticipate will be an emergency debate, a motion that will be placed later on today. I can say that negotiations are proceeding. I cannot tell the member what the final resolution will be.

Mr. Mackenzie: Can this minister tell this House if the problem is the refusal of Firestone tire to make sure that the Banburys, the four-roll calenders, the tread-tubing department, the curing processes and other essential equipment are part of the deal so that Cooper can maintain an interim production of bias-ply tires and have a cash flow as a result of it while it goes through the conversion to radial? Is that the problem at this point in time, a refusal by Firestone to work out an agreement that the equipment that is needed will stay there? Is it fact or not fact that neither the provincial nor the federal government has been a direct party to any of the talks over the last three or four weeks?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: The member has asked a multifaceted question. It is a very long question with a lot of implications. I should tell him that initially there was disparity in what Firestone was asking for and Cooper was offering, \$21 million versus \$14 million.

Mr. Mackenzie: More than that.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: Well, there are other considerations. That is the point I am making. But on the basis that there was a \$7-million discrepancy, in order to narrow that gap, Cooper and Firestone are trying to negotiate to see what equipment can remain. It is absolutely critical, as

the member has stated, that the Banbury equipment, the things of that kind that allow them to stay in business, be there. That is part of the negotiation. I cannot give him any assurances because we are not party to that negotiation. That is a commercial business decision that will have to be made.

What I have done is I have assured both of the principals, the municipality and the union that we will do whatever we can to help facilitate this deal. The member should also know that at the present time they are manufacturing bias-ply tires. The prospects are that they will convert it to a radial tire plant, and the cost of doing that is staggering. We will have to get involved in that particular exercise as well.

In the meantime, at least we have the parties negotiating again, which the member will certainly understand did not happen before. They are back together. They are negotiating. I hope we can announce some progress shortly.

1540

RENTAL ACCOMMODATION

Mr. Cousens: I have a question for the new Minister of Housing. During the election campaign, on August 22, this summer, an ad appeared in the *Globe and Mail* from the Liberal Party of Ontario saying, "We will complete 102,000 affordable rental units by 1989." It was not 100,000. It was not 110,000. It was 102,000 affordable rental units within two years.

I would like to ask the minister, does the minister have a specific plan to achieve 102,000 units of construction, or is this an example of baseless Liberal propaganda?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I thank the member for Markham for giving me the opportunity to make it clear to everyone here that the government of Ontario is committed to building 102,000 units of affordable housing by the year 1990.

Mr. Cousens: We are off to a great beginning. I asked for a specific plan. Yesterday we had the throne speech to give the government an opportunity to lay something on the table. But given that her government was not able to build even 12,000 to 15,000 units in the best of times; given that it would be next to impossible to obtain the number of bricks she would need, and tradesmen, in order to build this number of houses in a two-year period; and given that there are no specifics being offered by the honourable minister, if she cannot build 102,000 units in the two-year period, will the minister resign?

If that is the case—

Mr. Speaker: Is that your question?

Mr. Cousens: No. At the end of two years—we give her two years—if it is not done in two years, will she resign?

Number two, is she saying that this is just more hollow promises from the Liberal Party of Ontario?

Mr. Speaker: Order. You have said that three times.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: The government of Ontario has a series of strategies for building and converting housing; they include convert-to-rent, new building, renovation and various other forms of building, which we will be presenting in due course.

TEACHERS' LABOUR DISPUTES

Mr. R. F. Johnston: My question is for the Minister of Education.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I recognize the member for Scarborough West.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I am sure the member for Niagara Falls (Mr. Kerrio) does as well.

My question is for the Minister of Education, and it concerns the recent strike in Toronto at the elementary panel, which went on for many weeks. It disrupted classes badly and ended with a resolution which I do not think has pleased parents or teachers in that community.

I wonder whether the minister would comment as to whether he agrees with this assessment of Bill 127, which caused some of the problems that we have just seen in Toronto. That is, the first offence is as follows:

"It is an assault on local autonomy. It is the removing from local boards of education the powers we feel they should have. If anything, we feel the minister should be moving in the opposite direction, giving more powers to local boards of education and reducing the powers in the Metro board."

Does he agree with the member for St. Catharines (Mr. Bradley)?

Hon. Mr. Ward: I am not familiar with the remarks that were made or in what context they were made. I take it that was back when the legislation was first introduced for consideration before this Legislature, and it is my understanding that it underwent significant amendment before it was enacted; so I really cannot comment as to the appropriateness of those remarks. I will say, however, that Bill 127 does in fact provide for joint bargaining on salaries and the financial benefits of teachers and staffing.

I think in the context of the recent strike in Metropolitan Toronto it should be noted that the decision to include preparation time as an issue of joint bargaining was a decision which was reached jointly by all of the parties involved.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Then the minister is dissociating himself from the position of the member for St. Catharines, and also probably from that of the member for Kitchener-Wilmot (Mr. Sweeney). At that point the member for Kitchener-Wilmot also said a number of things which, of course, I would like to read into the record. This is in third reading, I might say, after the amendments—which the Liberal Party voted against, I will remind members.

Mr. Speaker: The supplementary question is?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: The supplementary question is as follows: Does he not agree then with the member for Kitchener-Wilmot, who said: "I am opposed in principle to this tendency of the government to make organizations bigger and bigger. In this party we believe they should be going in the opposite direction. We believe we should be seriously looking at whether we need a Metro board in Toronto at all."

Does he agree with that position? If he does not agree with that position, does he have any plans at all to review the effects of Bill 127 and the lack of accountability that is built into that act, which caused so many problems in Metro Toronto this last month?

Hon. Mr. Ward: I believe that over the course of the past four years the experience of Metropolitan Toronto in dealing with education issues under Bill 127 has been characterized by a significant number of successes. After the strike, I did in fact ask all of the parties to the dispute to come in and to give me their thoughts as to what the impact or what the implications were of Bill 127, in terms either of contributing to the cause of the strike or prolonging the strike itself. I did not receive from any of the parties any clear indication that such was the case.

MEMBERS' PRIVILEGES

Mr. Breagh: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: I wrote to you on July 23 concerning the practice of Graham McCready in leaving with staff around the building documents which were purportedly writs to appear before a justice of the peace. In your reply you indicated that you wanted me to raise this as a point of privilege when the House returned.

I would remind you that the committee on the Legislative Assembly has done a report on this matter, but I also want to place in front of you

today the awkwardness that three members of the assembly, in the middle of an election period, were served with writs. Discretion being the better part of valour, all three of us decided to appear in front of the justices of the peace even though it was in the middle of an election period. For practical purposes, we were there trying to explain our role in the given situation in a morning and get out of it, but it did place us at a disadvantage.

I feel that my rights and the rights of the other members who were served with those writs were put somewhat at risk, particularly during the course of the election period. The matter of the serving of such documents on members or their staff in and around this building still seems to be one which perplexes us a great deal. I want to leave that with you and ask you to consider it, perhaps to refer once again to the Legislative Assembly committee the whole matter of serving documents on members within the precincts here.

USE OF LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER

Mr. Breagh: The second matter that I want to raise with you is one with which I must confess I personally do not take a great deal of umbrage, but it does raise an interesting point that I think you, sir, have to consider. The new cabinet was sworn in on the television system in this chamber. I would advocate that we ought to use the television system as much as we can, but I would point out to you that it is quite a substantial departure from parliamentary tradition to use the legislative chamber per se for any purposes other than meetings of the assembly. Going through my little background on it, I cannot find that any standing order was violated or that any rules of the House were violated, but it does seem to me that the traditions of a parliament are very simply this: The chamber itself is used for no other purpose.

It does seem to me that we as members need to clarify how this chamber will be used, how the television system will be used, and we have not done that. That is perhaps a matter which would best be sent to the Legislative Assembly committee for its consideration and a report back. I am not at this point in time going to argue against using the chamber for such functions, but I would point out to you, sir, that the television process goes across the province. If the government of the day decides to clear all the benches out of here, as the government did, and use it for a ceremony of its own purposes, as it has a right to do, I suppose, I think as members we ought to

have some say about the terms and conditions under which that happens, and I would like you to take that matter under consideration.

Mr. Sterling: On the same point of privilege, Mr. Speaker, I felt that my privileges were breached—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member for Carleton (Mr. Sterling) has the floor.

1550

Mr. Sterling: I did feel my privileges were breached, both when the previous cabinet of 1985 was sworn in in this particular assembly and when this cabinet was sworn in in this assembly in 1987. But since that time there has been a change in the utility of this particular chamber. It has become a television studio and therefore much more attractive for a government to put forward itself to the detriment of members of the opposition.

I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, I consider my right to this chamber as a right, as much as the Premier of Ontario has a right to this chamber, and I do not think, if you were asked if they could use this chamber for that particular function, you should have given that permission without consulting each and every other member of this Legislature.

Hon. Mr. Conway: If I might: This point, of course, invites all of us who have been around for a while to recall to mind those events over the years when the chamber has been used for extraordinary purposes, if that is the right phrase.

I think, for example, of the first day that I was here, in 1975. It was for the investiture of Arthur Edward Martin Maloney, QC, the then Ombudsman of Ontario.

Mr. Sterling: He was a servant of the Legislature.

Hon. Mr. Conway: Point well made.

I think a couple of months ago we saw the investiture of some very distinguished Ontarians into the Order of Ontario, as I recall, in this particular chamber.

I think, however, on behalf of the government, I would want to say that this is a point we would want to consider, either at the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly and/or at the Board of Internal Economy, because I think it would clearly be useful to have a well-established protocol for the use of the chamber. Certainly on my part, and on behalf of the government, we would be very anxious to work with honourable members to ensure that there is a clear protocol and that no one's sensibilities or privileges are or appear to be interfered with.

Mr. Speaker: I listened very carefully to the two points made known by the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh).

I would say on the first point, as far as the serving of documents is concerned, I would hope that when a Legislative Assembly committee is formed it would take a look at this part of the act. I will do my best to make certain that has an opportunity to go before that committee.

I do not particularly want to get into an argument on the second point. I believe this chamber has been used for other functions, and I should say the floor of the chamber has been used for other functions. I would be glad, again when the Legislative Assembly committee is formed, to go before the committee and discuss that, which includes the use of the chamber.

I will certainly keep that on the back burner and make certain that those two points are reviewed with the committee.

PETITIONS

NATUROPATHY

Mr. D. R. Cooke: One petition signed by 160 people calls upon the Legislature to call on the government to "introduce legislation that would guarantee naturopaths the right to practise their art and science to the fullest without prejudice or harassment."

DRINKING AND DRIVING

Mr. D. R. Cooke: The second is signed by 117 people who are concerned with respect to the existing sentencing provisions regarding first-time offenders of the drinking and driving laws of Canada, and feel there ought to be a review in the very near future concerning these provisions, and particularly the automatic mandatory one-year suspension of an individual's driving privileges subsequent to the conviction for one of the Criminal Code drinking and driving offences, respectfully asking the Lieutenant Governor in Council to conduct a comprehensive review of the sentencing provisions in question in the very near future with a view to considering changes in respect of existing sentencing provisions.

MOTIONS

DEPUTY SPEAKER AND DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

Hon. Mr. Conway moved that the member for Prescott and Russell (Mr. Poirier) be appointed Deputy Speaker for this parliament, and that, notwithstanding standing order 12(b), the member for Elgin (Miss Roberts) be appointed Deputy

Chairman of the committees of the whole House for this parliament.

Motion agreed to.

HOUSE SITTING

Hon. Mr. Conway moved that, notwithstanding standing order 2(a), the House shall meet at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 5, 1987.

Motion agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

ONTARIO AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE BOARD ACT

Hon. R. F. Nixon moved first reading of Bill 2, An Act to establish the Ontario Automobile Insurance Board and to provide for the Review of Automobile Insurance Rates.

Motion agreed to.

NON-SMOKERS' PROTECTION ACT

Mr. Sterling moved first reading of Bill 3, An Act to protect the Public Health and Comfort and the Environment by Prohibiting and Controlling Smoking in Public Places.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Sterling: As all members of the Legislature know, this is the sequel to Bill 71, the Non-Smokers' Protection Act. As I said in my opening statement today, I hope the government has stopped stalling and calls this bill for second and third readings. We considered it in the last parliament, and I would consider any amendments put forward by the government in a co-operative manner. I look forward to its co-operation in seeing that something is finally done about controlling smoking in public and in the workplace.

1600

METROPOLITAN TORONTO POLICE FORCE COMPLAINTS AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Scott moved first reading of Bill 4, An Act to amend the Metropolitan Toronto Police Force Complaints Act, 1984.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Scott: This bill and the other bills I will introduce this afternoon were not attended to in the last session and they are being introduced for that purpose.

PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THE CROWN AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Scott moved first reading of Bill 5, An Act to amend the Proceedings Against the Crown Act.

Motion agreed to.

EXECUTION AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Scott moved first reading of Bill 6, An Act to amend the Execution Act.

Motion agreed to.

MOTION TO SET ASIDE ORDINARY BUSINESS

Mr. B. Rae moved that, pursuant to standing order 37, the ordinary business of the House be set aside to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, namely the failure of the trade agreement between Prime Minister Mulroney and President Reagan to live up to the six conditions expressed by the Premier (Mr. Peterson) during the recent election campaign and, further, the failure of this government to commit itself unconditionally to exercise its full legislative and regulatory authority to prevent implementation of this trade agreement.

Mr. Speaker: Notice of this motion was received at 11:15 a.m., therefore in time, and it is in order. So I will listen to the honourable member for up to five minutes, as well as a representative of the other two parties. I will listen, of course, to reasons why this should be debated.

Mr. B. Rae: I want to submit to you, Mr. Speaker, that we have been subjected to nothing short of a fraud by the government of the day. I want to suggest to you, sir, that last August, during the election campaign, we were told very clearly by the Premier, who is still the Premier, and I quote—I am using his words: "There can be no deal on free trade. If it guts the auto pact, that is Ontario's bottom line." I think that every citizen in this province heard those words and heard the Premier of the province say that there can be no free trade agreement unless six conditions were met.

The deal came down while this House was in recess and during that time the Premier of the province suddenly discovered that his powers somehow, like those of Samson, were completely taken away. He went into the election looking for a mandate. He got the mandate and, having been given the mandate, turned around and said, "Aha, I have discovered there is nothing now that I can do." It is almost as if Superman went into the phone booth and decided that he was going to come out as Clark Kent and walked around saying: "There is nothing now I can do. I have lost all my capacity."

I always thought that elections and the democratic will of the people gave power and

capacity to government, instead of which we see almost a kind of unilateral declaration, a powerlessness by the Premier which he again exhibited today in the Legislature in response to questions from me.

I would like to submit to you, Mr. Speaker, that the future of this country is at stake. I would submit to you, sir, that proof of that fact is evidenced by many things, but perhaps most clearly by the fact that since the House was not in session—one can only presume this is the reason that it was done—the Premier took the unusual step of announcing that he was going to ask a cabinet subcommittee to hold public hearings, which began with the process of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Mr. Kwinter) being briefed publicly by his own deputy with respect to what was in the treaty. It was an interesting performance. I must say I can find no particular constitutional precedent for it. It was almost as if Yes, Minister had come to Ontario and had been brought to real political life.

I would submit in all seriousness that we in this House are entitled now to every opportunity to debate this question, to hear from the government what is its position and to hear what it intends to do. It has not, as yet, referred this matter to any parliamentary committee. It has said it cannot do that until it gets the final agreement. Ironical, one would say. If it cannot do that until it gets the final agreement, how can it ask the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology to travel so widely and to ask so many questions when, indeed, the minister seems to be admitting that he does not yet have the agreement?

The government cannot now be heard to say there is no emergency or urgent situation and it cannot now be heard to say, "It is quite an important matter, but we really have to wait until we see every final crossing of the t's and dotting of the i's," because it has admitted that there is a problem by carrying out what I think you would agree, sir, is quite an unusual constitutional step of constituting public hearings without the Legislature itself being involved in those hearings.

I would like to assert that in moving this motion we are doing two things. One is getting the government to come clean about what it intends to do with respect to an agreement which it has now clearly stated is unsatisfactory. The Premier has made it very clear in his comments today to the Canadian Club that he has a great many concerns about the deal and that he in fact is clearly not in favour of it. That is not now, after

a period of two and one half years, in any dispute. What is at issue in this House and what is an issue which we are entitled to debate and which is a matter of urgent, public importance is, precisely what does the government of Ontario intend to do to live up to the solemn commitments it made to the people of the province?

I am prevented by parliamentary tradition from using the language which I think describes precisely what happened in the election campaign and, indeed, in this House with respect to the actions and words of the Premier of the day. I have said that I regard this matter as nothing short of a fraud. I think it is a fraud. I think it is a fraud that ought to be debated and exposed. More important than that, beyond the divisions that are within this House, we ought to have a chance to do what we can to save Canada from this terrible agreement.

Mr. Harris: First of all, with reference to the way the government and the Premier have proceeded, I am not uncomfortable at all in associating myself and our party with the remarks that were made by the member for York South. I would concur with those statements.

I do not think anyone in this chamber disagrees with the assessment that free trade is an important issue that is facing our country, that the opportunity for job enhancement and secure access to one of the largest markets in the world is a great concern and, indeed, an opportunity for all Canadians.

It was none other than that great Liberal from Ontario, Donald Macdonald, who, after being given a mandate by the Right Honourable Pierre Elliott Trudeau to chart a course for the future economic prosperity of our nation, went out across this land for several years, at a cost of millions of dollars, and came back with the recommendation that we must seek a trade agreement with the United States to secure access to our most important market, to be able to maintain our level of exports with our most important trading partner, to be able to maintain our ability to develop new products, to be able to maintain the thousands of jobs these initiatives create, to be able to maintain our ability to fund cultural programs, to be able to maintain our sovereignty, to be able to maintain our ability to pay for a standard of living far in excess of most jurisdictions in this world.

We are a trading province. We produce far more than we consume, and we need trade to survive. Those are some of the givens. Our party agrees that it is an important issue. We agree with Donald Macdonald. It is not only important but

perhaps the single most important issue facing Ontario and Canada today.

1610

I would suggest, though, that we should calm down the rhetoric. There have been a lot of silly arguments, I would maintain, that if one disagrees with an individual's point of view, he is somehow anti-Canadian, he is somehow anti our culture, he wants to sell out our country. This type of rhetoric, I submit, arises from debate but ignores facts. It is debate that is based on emotion or attempts to appeal to emotion when the facts do not justify what it is they want to sell to the country. These types of ideological responses are probably, I would submit, all we are in a position to debate today. I doubt that they will contribute to our understanding of the complexity and the difficulty of this issue. It is of vital importance, we agree.

We still have not seen the final text. When we do, I believe we are all agreed in this House that it will require a full airing, that there will be full hearings, that there will be a full examination, that the government itself in the speech from the throne has admitted that what it tried to put in place was a charade and a bit of a joke on the people, I guess—which I assume will slowly be tried to be phased out and scrapped, that committee of ministers that really served no purpose at all—and that we will have a full parliamentary debate and full committee hearings on the matter and, indeed, full committee explanations of what it is we are dealing with.

So I would submit that this ought not to be treated as a one-day wonder, and that, from my experience in this legislative chamber, is what the forum of emergency debate provides. It is not an emergency; it is vitally important. In fact, I would submit it is of most importance. While I agree with the member for York South on some of his allegations, I do not think repeating philosophical rhetoric again today which we have heard over the past year, year and a half or two years—but I agree with him about some of the rhetoric we heard in the campaign and how ridiculous it was—I do not think that will be particularly beneficial. So our party, secure in the knowledge that there will be plenty of opportunity for considerable debate, for considerable input, for considerable hearings, does not support setting aside the business for an emergency debate today.

Hon. Mr. Conway: On behalf of the government, I appreciate the opportunity to say a few words in response to the motion placed before us by the member for York South. I must say it is

good to be back, just to begin with that kind—it is really good to be back. I was observing parenthetically to my friend the member for Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston) that I, as government House leader, have no intention of suggesting that this motion not be proceeded with today.

One could, as the member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris) has just done, manufacture a very constructionist view of the rules of this place, and I could probably do it as well as anyone here. I have done it, I think, in the past, but on behalf of the government I just want to say that we view the whole trade question as a matter of very serious concern to the economic and cultural future of this province and of this country. As has been clear throughout the course of recent weeks and months, the Premier and leader of this government has put the case for this government and our party, I think, with eloquence and with effect. We have, as the speech from the throne outlines, indicated a number of specific initiatives that we intend to take in this connection.

I must say that I will be somewhat disappointed that we will not be able to hear today from the member for Eglinton (Ms. Poole) and the member for Algoma-Manitoulin (Mr. Brown) as they move and second a humble address in response to His Honour's speech.

I am also going to be disappointed, quite frankly, that I will not get the full version of the point of view of the Leader of the Opposition. Unlike today, which will be limited to 10 minutes, tomorrow will presumably be 90 minutes, or whatever, but that is entirely at the call of the Leader of the Opposition, it seems to me.

I want to say to my friends across the way, particularly to those friends across the way in the opposition parties, that we will be happy to engage in this debate this afternoon. Over the coming weeks, we will be also very anxious to debate this and related questions in the standing committee on finance and economic affairs.

As I listened to the Leader of the Opposition make his case with some very interesting language that, again, might upset a constructionist, I was thinking back to Sunday night when I happened to come in to the city of Toronto just in time to catch the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breagh) and the member for Carleton (Mr. Sterling) on the CBC's Dateline. I will not make comments about the member for Carleton, but I can only reflect upon what I thought I heard the member for Oshawa say in respect of the conduct that should attach to this whole free trade debate.

I thought I heard the member for Oshawa, an outstanding and distinguished member of the assembly and a leading light in the New Democratic Party, I understand, advance an argument for some care and caution as we move forward. Now, I am, of course, subject—

Mr. R. F. Johnston: A transcript will show that is true.

Hon. Mr. Conway: —as the member for Scarborough West would suggest—to a careful review of the transcript, an altogether extraordinary transcript, I should think, if one looked at it once again. I thought the member for Oshawa, unlike the member for Carleton, stole the show, but then I did not write those press reports. Enough said.

The government views the whole trade question as a matter of very serious concern. We had hoped that the throne debate might begin today, because obviously the throne debate provides a waterfront opportunity for the Leader of the Opposition and his 18 colleagues to discuss these matters and others at whatever length and with whatever attachment and decibel level they choose to offer.

Having said all that, I think it is important for me, on behalf of the government, to get a sense of the opposition. I get a sense that the official opposition would like to take advantage of the provisions of standing order 37 to have this debate today, and we will certainly not stand in the way of that debate this afternoon.

Mr. Speaker: We have had the pleasure of listening to members in this chamber on the motion. Now, pursuant to standing order 37(d), I must put the question. The question is: Shall the debate proceed?

All those in favour will please say “aye.”

All those opposed will please say “nay.”

In my opinion the ayes have it.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Speaker: I will recognize, I guess, first the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren). Any member who wishes to speak shall have up to 10 minutes. The debate will proceed until we run out of speakers or the time of six o'clock arrives.

TRADE WITH UNITED STATES

Mr. Laughren: I am somewhat surprised at the opposition of members of the third party to this debate, but I do understand their reluctance to debate the issue, given how they must feel and some of the pressures they must be under from people who are feeling so vulnerable if this deal were to go through.

We feel the debate is important and is necessary to hold for a number of reasons: First, the importance of free trade to the Ontario economy, the potential impact of free trade on the Ontario economy; second, the implications for Canadian sovereignty; and third, the impact that such a deal would have on what we regard as the most vulnerable aspects of the economy and the society in Ontario.

The industrial sectors, for example, that are struggling now would be further devastated by this deal. Regions of Ontario that are now weak and vulnerable would become weaker. I can think of northern Ontario as an obvious example. Corrective measures would be ruled unacceptable under any kind of deal, especially under that made-in-USA dispute settlement mechanism.

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People in our society who are the most vulnerable—I think of women in particular—would become even more so if this trade deal were to become law. This government so quickly has become complacent. They do not appear willing to act in a decisive way to stop this deal dead in its tracks.

This party is waging a very serious political battle, along with our federal caucus. We are doing so not because we want to build a wall around this country, not because it is simply a Mulroney initiative and not because it is anti-American or we are anti-American. We are waging this battle because we feel very strongly that the results of this free trade deal, if it were implemented, would be contrary to our vision of what we think our country should be like in the future.

New Democrats are not prepared to sacrifice the civility of our social programs that are unique. We are not prepared to sacrifice the somewhat understated sense of national identity that we have. We are not prepared to sacrifice our unique mixed economy that we have in this country. It may be free enterprise, but it is tempered by government regulation.

We are not prepared to reinforce the resource-exploitation nature of northern Ontario, which this deal would surely do. We want a northern Ontario that is part of the economic mainstream of all of Ontario. We want to be able to impose processing requirements on the mining companies if we so choose. We want to be able to set our own stumpage fees. We want to be able to impose pollution control orders that satisfy us. We want to be able to use a mix of crown corporations, joint ventures and private sector subsidies in northern Ontario in order to build a

more diversified northern Ontario. Free trade would not allow us to do that. We have seen evidence of that.

We know that some industries would be more affected than others and we know that the hardest-hit industries employ a disproportionate number of women. For example, 80 per cent of working women are employed in the service sector. I will give the members a couple of statistics. Between 1977 and 1984, 180,000 jobs were lost in Canada as a result of the importation of computer services. In 1971, 12 per cent of Canadian firms had data processed in the United States. Five years later, that number had doubled to 25 per cent of firms. In the garment industry, it has been estimated that 25,000 out of the approximately 38,000 jobs there now would be lost under a free trade arrangement.

Surely it is not acceptable to deliberately negotiate a deal that will make working women even more vulnerable than they are now. The government must not be so sanguine, so laid-back and so complacent, because that is the picture we are getting.

Free trade is not simply an economic concept that pays homage to the discipline of the marketplace. It is an ideological doctrine that demands and gets its sacrifices. Those sacrifices are the people, the regions and the industrial sectors that are least able to defend themselves. We are not talking about our ability to compete with equals in the world in trade. We are not talking about being able to wheel and deal out there in the marketplace on our terms. Under a comprehensive free trade arrangement, the members can be sure that we would be talking about a profound restructuring of our economy. We would no longer be able to determine which industrial sectors were important to Canada in order for us to be a self-reliant nation.

Under free trade, the environmental standards, the wage laws and social programs of the least civil jurisdiction would become the benchmark for competitors. That is not our vision of Canada. That is a vision for those who believe in the doctrine that the fittest survive. We do not believe that the lowest common denominator should determine the level of environmental standards, social programs or labour laws.

This government has sent mixed messages to Brian Mulroney. This government has refused to take a strong position against free trade. As a matter of fact, if I were Brian Mulroney, I would be furious at my old pal David Peterson.

Why did the Premier (Mr. Peterson) not declare from the beginning that he was opposed

to these free trade negotiations? We all know about the conditions that were laid down during the election campaign—our leader outlined them a few minutes ago—and some of them are so profoundly important to Ontario that I do not know how the Premier cannot do everything in his power to stop these negotiations right dead in their tracks.

We are saying to the Premier that the time for playing footsie is over. The message must be clear: Ontario will not accept a free trade deal; Ontario will not implement any enabling legislation; Ontario will veto any arrangement that encroaches on our provincial jurisdiction; Ontario will take the case directly to Washington; Ontario will take the lead and rally other provinces in opposition to this deal. We have an opportunity in Ontario to provide the leadership and to go from this battle, once it is won, on to the next one; and the next battle will be to make less vulnerable those people who are now so vulnerable and those sectors that are now so vulnerable. The next battle should be one to make this country one in which we set our own economic policy, where we set our own cultural policy and our own labour laws and our own environmental standards and our own social programs.

Canadians are proud of the social programs that are now in place, but I want to tell the members, I am firmly convinced that if this deal goes through, there is not a single social program that will not be debated in the future.

We are adamantly opposed to this free trade deal, and I urge the government to listen to what we are saying, to think about the vulnerability of people in our society, of regions in Ontario and of industrial sectors in our economy. It is that vulnerability that bothers me so much about any free trade arrangement, because the more vulnerable people, regions and sectors are, the more they will be damaged by a free trade deal.

We are not prepared to sacrifice the victories we have had in the past on these programs for the wishes of those whose vision of Canada is less generous than ours.

Mr. Sterling: It is my privilege to represent our party in saying that we are the one party in this Legislature which has unabashedly supported a freer trade or enhanced trade agreement with the United States. Our party sees Ontario as a trading province. We see our province as a province which should be first off the mark in seeking greater access for the manufacturers of our province. We see our province not only acting in its own self-interest but as a leader for

all of Canada because we are the richest province.

We are, therefore, very much concerned with our Premier's attitude in terms of how he is dealing with this whole issue. He seems more interested in waging a war, a political war for political purposes, than he does in being constructive in forging a newer agreement with the United States.

I often said on the campaign trail that given the choice between taking the status quo and a new agreement, I would take the status quo, but that is not the choice we are faced with today. We are faced with a protectionist attitude in the United States of America and we have to deal with that in some constructive manner. We have not seen that kind of reaction by the government of Ontario.

This government has done nothing to contribute to reaching a freer trade agreement in a constructive manner. They have not indicated to us, although they have the constitutional responsibility to do so, what they are planning to do if in fact the federal government goes ahead with the free trade agreement. We have not heard how they are going to help out workers who need retraining or relocation. We have not heard how they are going to help out industries that might be affected. We have not heard how they are going to help out communities that might be affected under this agreement. So instead of looking at this as a challenge for our province, we have a negative government response, a government who are doomsday-sayers and really have no vision of a future for our province.

1630

Members might say: "Why is it so important that we reach an agreement with the United States? Our Premier has talked about greater access to Pacific Rim countries and trading with them." I might remind members that the Liberal Prime Minister in the early 1970s attempted to expand trade with other countries. At that time our trade with the United States was approximately 60 per cent; that was for all of Canada. After this great program of expanding trade to other countries, we find now that our reliance on the American market is 75 to 80 per cent in Canada. Here in Ontario, 80 per cent of our exports go to the United States. One in three jobs is dependent upon a smooth trading relationship with the United States of America.

There can be no doubt about it: Trade, and particularly trade with the United States, has brought prosperity to our province. Now we have to seek a new way of continuing to break down the trade barriers that do exist between our

countries and that process is not new to this agreement. In fact, if we take out four or five major sectors, tariffs in general have come down to around the four or five per cent level.

We believe that the current proposed agreement, which the federal government and the US government have agreed to in preliminary form, will not only be a significant step in assuring our future access to existing markets but will open new markets for us.

What will a free trade agreement do for us? We believe, simply put, that the agreement will give us enhanced and secure access to these very important markets. We believe our Ontario producers will be able to compete as they will have not a market of 25 million people here in Ontario but a market of 280 million, including the United States, and that will allow some of our industries to specialize. We will have to become more efficient but our party believes that our manufacturers are up to that challenge. We believe that this agreement will create many jobs for the people of Ontario.

This agreement is about eliminating and reducing tariffs between our countries. When tariffs fall, consumers get lower prices on both sides of the border at less cost. That means, in my opinion, that we will have a higher standard of living in both of our countries.

A larger selection of goods will be available for the consumer. Our many Ontario industries will benefit from lower production costs. The advantages we derive from our auto pact, we believe, can be enhanced under this agreement. It maintains some safeguards placed on the auto pact companies. It stiffens North American content requirements for offshore producers.

We believe that new opportunities for producers of replacement parts and tires, products which are outside our auto pact at this time, will attract new opportunities here in Ontario. We do not believe, as the New Democratic Party believes, that our national sovereignty, our social programs or our regional development programs will be threatened. We do believe that we can maintain our way of life while growing closer economic ties with the United States. All interested parties to this particular agreement are governed by their existing trade laws. Up until this time, under our situation with the United States, we have had no access to challenge those laws or those interpretations of laws.

While our party would have preferred a binational dispute mechanism with stronger powers, this binational dispute mechanism does provide us with some access with regard to trade

laws in the United States. Let us not forget that what we access in terms of our attack on any ruling with regard to trade laws in the United States also works in reverse with regard to the United States attacking our interpretation of our trade laws.

On many occasions before, when the softwood lumber issue came up in this House, we have asked ministers across the floor what they did with regard to the particular attack on our softwood lumber industry. The fact of the matter is that outside of a political solution, we had no immediate retaliatory mechanism. This kind of mechanism, which we now have, would provide us with some of those mechanisms.

We believe that we in Ontario have prospered as a result of trade with the United States. The move to reduce trade barriers, to reduce tariffs, will, I think, benefit Ontario as a whole.

While we admit the free trade agreement is not perfect in every sense and we would like to see the final wording on a sector-by-sector basis, we believe that on the whole it will allow us to continue our ability to develop as a province with larger access to a larger market. It will allow us to compete in industry on a worldwide basis rather than with what we have had to deal with in the past, a very limited market.

I would hope, as a member from eastern Ontario who represents a riding that is very much dependent on high-tech industries, that access to American markets will continue. There are many projects in this province that are just waiting to see the result of this free trade agreement because access to the United States market is contingent on its going ahead with its plans.

We must never forget the fundamental issue at stake, our trading relationship with the United States, the only international economic relationship that is crucial to us as a province and indeed as a country.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: I am pleased to join in this debate today as we examine the weighty issues we have to deal with in this US-Canada trade agreement. We believe it is the duty of all Canadians to take a look at this issue, an issue that will for ever change the character and quality of this country, one that will have everlasting impact.

Our government has examined the preliminary agreement. We weighed the benefits against the tradeoffs and quite frankly we found the agreement wanting. Simply stated, our government is not prepared to accept a trade deal under which Canadian policies are dictated by US interests rather than decided by Canadians.

The Ontario government supports enhanced and secure market access with our largest trading partner. Let there be no mistake; we have a very strong feeling of support for our American neighbours and the trade that we conduct with them. Ontario is the United States's largest trading partner and we are its largest customer. We have a mutuality of concern and we have a mutuality of interest to make sure that particular relationship remains.

When the trade negotiations were initiated by the federal government, we saw the need for secure access to the US. We also required the elimination of trade harassment by US companies against Canadian exporters; we were in a position where the better we did, the greater the harassment against us. We also required clear roles defining permissible government programs. That is absolutely critical to a province like Ontario.

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We of course knew that concessions had to be made to achieve these objectives. Again, let there be no mistake: When we looked at this deal, we did not take an ideological bent that no matter what it was, we were opposed to it. We were prepared to look at it, to take a look at what had been negotiated and if it were for the benefit of Ontario, we certainly would have responded in a positive way.

During the provincial election campaign this summer, the Premier made it clear that we understood that concessions, however necessary, could not jeopardize our most vulnerable industries. He outlined six conditions that had to be met and I think it is important that we put them, certainly from the government's point of view, into the record: To establish an effective dispute settlement mechanism; support for regional development; preservation of our agriculture and beverage alcohol industries; ability to screen foreign investments; retain our cultural identity; and last but not least, maintain the auto pact or see it enhanced.

We know the issues involved are complex, but at the heart of the whole trade negotiations was the desire to achieve greater and more secure access by both countries to the other's markets and resources. The major objective of the federal government and the federal trade negotiator, Simon Reisman, at the initiation of the negotiations was to secure access to the United States market. Why was secure access so important?

Ontario does not seek an agreement that will bless unfair trading practices by Ontario exporters at the expense of US manufacturers. Similar-

ly, Canadians do not expect that under a free trade arrangement US producers should be allowed to harass Canadian exporters. The very threat of an unjustified trade action by a US company could deter many small or medium-sized Canadian firms from exporting to the United States.

The foundation of secure access is the strength of the dispute settlement mechanism. Canadians need secure access to prevent the unfair application of US countervailing protection laws. Not only do such laws create uncertainty for Canadian exporters; they reduce the attractiveness of Canada as a place for foreign investment. Under the proposed free trade agreement, the binational tribunal does not result in any substantive benefit to Canada beyond the current avenues of appeal to the US courts and to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

As for government programs and our ability to promote regional and sectoral development, in order to make any real progress in this area, we believe that Canada would need to negotiate changes to US trade laws and definitions to reduce harassment of Canadian exporters. This was not achieved in the proposed Canada-US agreement. Indeed, under the terms of the October 4 agreement, regional development programs remain extremely vulnerable to US countervail. Firms that are successful on the US market can still be threatened by the mere processing of groundless US trade actions. Such actions can severely disrupt our export strategies.

The agreement does provide for continuing Canada-US negotiations over a five- to seven-year period to change Canadian and US trade laws and to reach a definition of an acceptable subsidy practice. We do not think that in practice that will work. We simply cannot foresee how great those concessions might be, if we have to make any concessions to get that kind of change, and we do not know whether we will have to cancel government programs to assist industry, research and development or make adjustment to regional development. We just do not know. That is something where they say, "Trust us," and that presents a problem for us.

If prior agreement is not reached on definitions and new rules to govern countervailing duties and anti-dumping remedies, then either party can nullify the agreement. The fact alone that the deal could be scrapped is far more significant to Canada and this very option puts the Americans at an advantage.

I want to put into the record—I think it is important to know—that there are benefits for

Canadians in the Canada-US agreement. Some very high US tariffs will be dropped, albeit slowly; that will be good for some sectors. Temporary-service personnel will be able to cross the border more readily. The agricultural sections of the agreement contain some good provisions, and certainly some that we think are very bad. Canadian exports will not be included in US safeguard actions against injurious imports, primarily from other countries.

What have we conceded to get these few benefits? Certainly the proposed agreement does not even come close to addressing the Premier's conditions for acceptance. There is a loss of Canada's ability to screen a substantial proportion of foreign investment to ensure that it is in Canada's economic best interest and to maintain our essential right as a sovereign nation to direct foreign investment.

The safeguards under the auto pact are gone. Removing tariffs and permitting unlimited purchasing from US suppliers destroys the very safeguards that helped to build our vibrant auto sector.

The strategy must include federal implementation of uniform production requirements for all third countries producing automobiles that are in Canada. We think the provision that no one else will be allowed into the auto pact, where they cannot achieve auto pact status, absolutely prevents and guts the whole idea of the auto pact for Canada. We think the agreement must include a joint commitment by government, industry and labour to improve the Canadian auto industry's technological capacity to ensure that we are competitive with any other country in the world.

In our view, notwithstanding that Simon Reisman claims it is auto-pact-plus, we are convinced that the auto pact was not protected in the negotiations. We are not satisfied this is a better deal for Canada. In fact, we believe the reverse is true.

We are not happy with the energy proposals. We think that if it is implemented, Canada will be tied to a continental energy market with little ability to ensure security of supply, resource upgrading or an independent pricing policy.

Then of course there is the loss for the Ontario wine and grape industry. Clearly, Ontario's insistence on preservation of that industry has been totally ignored.

There are areas in cultural pursuits that have been hampered by reduction of postal subsidies. There is the loss of various other aspects through the areas that severely impact on Ontario.

We were told when it was presented to us on October 5 that we would have the final agreement in three weeks. Those three weeks have come and gone and we have not seen it. We now hear that we may see it in mid-November, maybe late November, maybe even later than that.

We are in a situation where, let there be no doubt, the Premier has stated unequivocally that he is opposed to the deal. We think it is a bad deal for Ontario. We think by extension it is a bad deal for Canada. We are going to voice our opposition as we are doing. We are going to use every opportunity we have to state our position and to explain to the people of Ontario what the deal is and why we think it is a bad one.

Mr. Mackenzie: I do not know whether the minister is already backing off a little bit in his comments from what I have heard him say at some of the hearings he has held around the province, but I heard the Ontario Federation of Labour and the steelworkers' union, for example, go after him in Hamilton and here in Toronto on what this meant to our country. I heard him say: "Look, you are whipping the wrong horse, if you like, fellows. We are opposed to the deal. You do not need to get angry at us and tell us that we should be opposing it; that is our position. But of course we do not think Ontario should be telling the other provinces what to do."

Now he is saying they are going to voice their opinions. I hope that is across this country of ours because just saying that we are not going to tell the other provinces or it is not Ontario's role is simply not good enough.

I think what is happening in this free trade debate is a threat to this country of ours. I think the deal we have got is a nondeal and I think it would be a tragedy if we allow it to go any further. We have all the talk about the need for this bill to protect us against US protectionism when there is no limitation either on the application of current US law or on the right of the US to apply new law to Canada in the future with the current bill we have. That gives us nothing as far as I am concerned.

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Free trade is cited as a boost to regional development in Canada despite the evidence, very clear, that it does nothing to preserve access for regional resource industries, that many regional industries will not get access to the US market at all and that other regionally important industries in the manufacturing sector will be devastated by the elimination of tariff barriers.

The deal, as far as I am concerned, is unbelievable, and I think it bears out most of

what we heard in the select committee that met for a number of months, with members of this Legislature. I think the federal Tories have signed a deal with the Reagan administration that gives to the US almost all of what it wanted and to Canada virtually nothing of what Canada needed.

The United States has won a continental energy policy, something which it has been looking for ever since the energy crisis of the early 1970s. In effect, it has won a guarantee that no future government will ever have the temerity or the ability to implement a made-in-Canada energy policy, unless of course we get out of it. It may be too late once we are tied into such an agreement.

The United States has won an agreement to end virtually all restrictions on US investment in Canada. In effect, it has won a guarantee of immunity from future Canadian political concerns about ownership and control of Canadian industry.

It has won substantially increased access to Canadian markets for most US agricultural products, a change that will undermine the effectiveness of marketing board systems that have served Canadian farmers so well.

They got exactly what they wanted on tariffs: a total phase-out. They got exactly what they wanted on services: national treatment.

Forgive me, but I can remember back to the days on the select committee, and there are members sitting here in this House who were on it, when we were arguing that we should get out of this deal and see that it was ended before it ever got started because all we were going to do was expose all of the irritants in our trade talks between the two countries. We heard, "Oh, there's no way, we have to at least enter into the talks and see what they're going to offer us." This came from the Liberal members on the committee as much as it did from the Tory members on the committee.

Of course, the caveats were that we would not deal with the auto pact, we would not deal with agriculture. I can recall making efforts in that committee to get a definitive statement that if those things went on the table, the talks were over. I knew that once those things were on the table, they would find ways and means to include them in the entire agreement, and that is exactly what we are seeing. I think there was a sellout early on, and I think there is a sellout now as far as this country is concerned.

But I think the dispute resolution mechanism is the real tragedy in the agreement we have; it

really does give us almost nothing. I note with some interest the comments that were made, just two or three brief paragraphs in two of the labour briefs that the minister got. The disputes resolution panel? "All dressed up with nowhere to go" is exactly how they put it.

This dispute resolution mechanism has produced more misinformation and distortion of reality than any other aspect of the free trade deal. The deal gives the panel jurisdiction of a sort in legislation and in the administration of trade laws.

As far as legislation is concerned, the dispute resolution panel's powers are limited to issuing declaratory opinions about any changes in antidumping or countervailing-duty statutes. If the opinion of the panel is that a proposed change in US law is contrary to either GATT rules or the objects and purposes of the free trade deal, and Canada and the US fail to agree on a compromise, Canada has the option of either retaliating or terminating the deal.

In plain English, what this means is that if we win at the panel and the US refuses to go along with the panel's view, we can either retaliate or terminate the whole deal. It gives us absolutely nothing that we do not already have.

I cannot help—I have done it before in this House—but go back to some of the comments of some of the senators we met with when we were down in Washington, the comments that there was no way we could reach a free trade agreement within the fast-track time frames, and I will never forget it as long as I live, "unless, of course"—and with the grin on the face of—I think we got it from a couple of different senators—"the deal is so good that we can't turn it down."

What we are seeing, my friends in this House, is a deal that is so damned good the US cannot turn it down. I think we are seeing a challenge to the sovereignty of this country. I think we are seeing something that, as far as I am concerned personally, borders on treason in terms of the position of some of our federal members in trying to push Canada into this deal. I think we will end up the 51st state.

We have never had defined for us what we are going to gain in the way of jobs. There is the whole lottery industry and a few things like that, or the cement industry, where there are going to be no new jobs but they just might employ for 12 months instead of eight months the couple of thousand workers who are involved in it in Canada. But to this day nobody has been able to tell us where the gains are and where the jobs are. We know and we know clearly and nobody

disputes, not even those who are pushing the free trade question, the fact that there are an awful lot of jobs at risk, that an awful lot of jobs and job adjustments are going to have to be made.

It seems to me that in the face of this kind of situation, it is a tragedy to continue. I think we see it even further when we see somebody like our chief negotiator, Simon Reisman, resort really to the refuge of scoundrels. When he cannot answer the questions that are tossed at him in terms of what is going to happen to our country and what this deal means to Canadians, what does he do? He resorts to the big lie technique: Anybody who is opposed to this is now somehow or other not just a doomsayer or a naysayer, as I heard one of my Tory colleagues say, but somehow or other is tied in with the Nazis or the fascists.

It has always been that if you cannot defend in an upfront and open way, you use that lie technique or you use this kind of charge. It seems to me that it is also dangerous to our country that we see that happening.

I was a little disappointed today when I heard the Premier not resort to quite those kinds of tactics but question the intelligence of my leader on some of his statements. Surely to goodness he is not going to take lessons from Simon Reisman in terms of how we are going to deal with a situation like this in the Ontario House here.

It seems to me that we have an obligation and this government has an obligation beyond any other province, because we are the province that will be most affected, to stand up very clearly and say: "No. This deal must end, and it must end now." It is not good enough to say, "Hey, you don't need to hammer us, boys," when some of the people come before the travelling road show that the cabinet has set up and tell them, "You've got to oppose this." It is not good enough for the minister to say: "You don't have to go after us. We've already made our minds up that we oppose this."

They have to take the lead, this government of Ontario, going across this country and making it very clear to Mulroney and the federal Conservatives that we are not going to have the sellout of this country of ours that is being proposed.

That is the minimum, bottom line, because otherwise they are part and parcel of what I think is the biggest tragedy that has ever happened to this country, which is going to affect tens of thousands of workers and is going to take away some of our sovereignty; which is going to prevent us from things like content legislation or regional disparity assistance when it is needed in

this country; which has not even begun to try to define what we really mean by subsidies; which has not resolved the questions once and for all, just as we obviously have not resolved the auto pact, whether it is on the table or not, or the agricultural industry; which has not resolved the question of whether something like our national health plan, the Ontario health insurance plan, is a subsidy.

As some of the US Governors and many others have said, in some of the arguments we have heard in the US Senate, is our unemployment insurance program a form of subsidy? Are the kinds of regional disparity programs we come up with to help areas in our country and our province that need assistance some form of subsidy?

When we have not even got that clearly defined on the table, there is no way we should be going any further whatsoever with this phoney and, I think, not only insensitive but dangerous free trade approach. I think the job of this government now is to make it very clear that yes, what we said in the election was the truth. We are going to end it.

The difference between my leader and me, I guess, is that maybe—I do not know; I have not discussed it with him—maybe he half believed the Premier of the province when he said, “This is our bottom line and this is what we will stop.” Unfortunately, I did not believe him, just as I found that you could not really depend on the word of the Liberal members of that committee when we met for several months a few months ago.

Mr. Cousens: Madam Speaker, I would like to begin by congratulating you on your appointment and election as the Deputy Chairman of the committees of the whole House. I think we are seeing another precedent, and it is a happy one.

I had the great honour and pleasure of serving as Deputy Chairman of the committees of the whole House for over three years. It is a very responsible job. You even have my old office, which is one of the nicest ones in the House. I just know from your smile and from your great personality that you are going to be a credit to this Legislature. I am just proud to have you as a friend and hope you will continue to be as objective and fair as you have already been today.

We are into a very important debate.

Interjections.

Mr. Cousens: We start off nice in this House, and who knows how it will deteriorate?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Ask for her resignation.

Mr. Cousens: Well, that is right. Look, we have given her two years to solve that problem, and I am sure that Madam Speaker will do an excellent job.

1700

Our debate today is on a most important subject. The decisions we make here probably do not affect what is going to happen at all, but what is going on in Ottawa and the leadership being given there certainly does have an impact on us and we must be aware of it, we must be conscious of it. I hope we are able to bring some guidance to the federal government on a number of matters.

Clearly and simply, when it comes to the initiative for freer trade, I am for it. I believe in the future that it offers. I am for a freer trade agreement because, without solid ground rules in trade, this province and this country will be left to the whims of politicians in the US Congress and Senate who have their own vested protectionist interests and who will take great delight in writing their own agenda for us because no other exists.

I am for a free trade agreement because Canada, as the closest trading partner to the United States, deserves better than being swept up in protectionist policies aimed at Japan and Europe and then suffering the fallout of those measures.

I am for an agreement because, until there is one, politicians in the United States will continue to view Canada as a happy hunting ground, knifing at sectors of our economy one by one because there is nothing that prevents them from doing otherwise. Today, it is potash or softwood lumber or steel or farm products; tomorrow, it will be fishing, motion pictures or beer; and every day after, it will be another sector or part of our economy vital to Canadian jobs and our economic growth and security.

I want an agreement because I believe that the best form of trade protection is trade liberation—liberation from ad hoc circumstances and the absence of control over the agenda. I want an agreement because I believe that we can compete effectively, not only in the United States where our market is 10-fold what it is here but indeed throughout the world. Our resources, our skills, our experience and our unique market positioning are our strengths. This is our confidence and this is the way to a secure tomorrow. That is what I believe in, and that is what my party stands for.

This is no game. We are into a situation where we, as leaders in the province, should be careful with the words we use—careful that it is not rhetoric based on emotion or hysteria, but that we

are dealing with facts. We are dealing with one of the most important issues affecting the future of our province. I believe the vision we have of our future, the faith we have in our ability to lead, can lead this province into a whole new era of success.

The people of this province deserve an opportunity for a continued high standard of living. They deserve direction, not abdication. They deserve confidence, not capitulation. They deserve straight talk. This is what we want to see coming from both the federal government and the provincial government.

After almost two years of debate in this province, in this country, involving all levels of government, almost every sector of the economy, academics, researchers, business and labour leaders, personal advisers to the Premier, and even the media, the issue should now be so clear in the minds of the people of this country that there are great gains to be made for this province and for this country through freer trade.

We are in a situation where, unfortunately, the documents have not been tabled, and I think that is one of the things the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Mr. Kwinter) has some concern about. I do as well, because until we have seen all the facts before us, how can one fully come to a decision and say one is opposed to it? When we have got that data and when we have had a chance to analyse and assess it, maybe then we can find some suggestions for our federal counterparts to review it in greater detail.

As with any negotiated deal, concessions must be made to achieve what is in the best interest of each party involved. The success of such a process is, of course, determined by the net result of the compromises made versus the benefits achieved. The recent agreement of a Canada-US free trade initiative is no exception. While opponents to a free trade or, more appropriately, freer trade arrangement with the United States have been quick to denounce the deal, most Canadians have reserved comment until the final text has been released, and rightly so.

Not all will be positive in the proposed bilateral trade agreement, nor will it all be so negative. What we must determine is how the net result of this agreement will affect not only Ontario but also Canada as a whole. The need for a definitive bilateral trade agreement has become increasingly apparent over the past few years.

Pursuing what Professor Alan Rugman of the University of Toronto has termed "administered protectionism," American producers have made use of countervailing duties and antidumping

provisions of US trade laws as a type of competitive strategy aimed at foreign corporations. Major trading partners of the United States, especially Canada, face grave consequences if this form of protectionism is further strengthened by the adoption of equally protectionist trade bills currently before Congress. In the wake of these developments, Canada has little choice but to establish a special trade relationship with the United States, a relationship, however, that is responsible and responsive to the needs of our nation.

As we look across the world, we will see how other countries have established trade relationships. The Soviet Union has a group of countries that trade among themselves; the European common market is a manifestation of trade agreements that are beginning to work; African countries, East Asian countries, Latin American and South American countries. The only two countries in the world that can survive with a trade agreement that is closely meshed as we need to have are the United States and Japan, and what we have to look at as Canadians is how we can build and nurture a long-term relationship with this major trading partner.

The draft trade agreement announced on October 3 is a comprehensive treaty dealing with tariffs and other import and export restrictions. The key sectors include the agriculture, automobile, energy, financial services, investment and cultural industries as well as provisions for a dispute settlement mechanism. We in this country are in a position to review this, to work with it, to see it as what it really can become. We can see it as an opportunity; we can see it as a way for our Canadian manufacturers, our Canadian business people to expand and open up that trade opportunity.

I do not think it is perfect. I think the dispute settlement mechanism leaves a lot to be desired. I think there can be a number of improvements, but could they not be done in the next round of negotiations, where possibly other concerns have to be considered? At a time when the US takes in roughly 70 per cent of our exports, and given that exports comprise 30 per cent of our gross national product and provide over three million jobs, Canada's enhanced position in securing crucial access to the US market cannot be taken lightly.

I refer as well to an issue of IBM's internal publication, *Tempo*. The president in his closing remarks in this article says:

"All of these efforts are based on our firm conviction that both our country and our

company"—IBM, that is—"have much to gain from a more open trade environment. As a trading nation, Canada has demonstrated an ability to be internationally competitive in every sense: price, quality and marketing. However, to compete successfully in the international arena, we must have secure access to the United States market."

Mr. J. B. Nixon: Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate you on your appointment.

The Acting Speaker (Miss Roberts): Thank you.

Mr. J. B. Nixon: Bear with me, Madam Speaker. I would like to say that I did not expect to be making my maiden speech quite so early, but it is a very important topic, as the minister has pointed out, and I am quite honoured and happy to rise to speak on this motion.

The issue of so-called free trade was not one that went without discussion during the election. Many people during the election would ask me, "Are you in favour of free trade or are you opposed to free trade?" I would immediately have to step back and say, "I do not think that is a very fair question in the face of the fact that we have never had free trade and I do not think anyone was really posing or proposing free trade."

1710

At the risk of being pedantic, free trade quite simply—I would say this to my friends over here—is a classical theory of economics which requires perfect markets—perfectly competitive markets—which requires each geographic area to specialize in its area of competitive advantage and which assumes everyone is roughly equal in the marketplace. I do not think there is anyone here who actually wants free trade as one knows it; nor is there anyone looking for free trade as we know it. None the less, during the election the first party on my right made the decision to be in favour of free trade and the second party, the opposition, made the decision to be opposed to free trade. We did not get free trade; we got the Brian Mulroney trade deal. That is what we are talking about today.

I think the Premier and this party were quite thoughtful during the election. We did not say, "We are opposed to or are in favour of free trade." What we said was, "If there is going to be a new trade agreement with the United States, then it has to meet six conditions." The minister has gone through those six conditions quite clearly. I think everyone knew what they were and knows they have not been met. I will not go

through the conditions, but I will point out to the members that one of the more conservative economic journals, the *Economist*, published in England, did have something to say about this Brian Mulroney trade deal. I will read from the article.

"Ottawa has also given a lot away. It will lower barriers on American investment in Canada, eventually vetting only takeovers involving assets of more than C\$150 million. Import licences will be scrapped on wheat, barley and oats. Transport subsidies (the so-called "Crow's Nest" subsidies) will end on many farm products exported through western Canada. American banks operating north of the border, hitherto subject to curbs on assets and on shareholdings in Canadian financial institutions, will be treated in future as if they were Canadian banks. Canadian magazine publishers will lose their postal subsidies. California winegrowers will be pleased by the removal of discriminatory markups on their products by Canadian liquor stores."

Remember, this is the *Economist*. This is not me speaking and it is not the Premier speaking. It is a respected, conservative business journal.

"The problem for the Canadians is that the agreement falls short of the goals set by their Prime Minister, Mr. Brian Mulroney, when he set the free trade talks on the road in May 1986."

I think it is fair to say there is some international commentary that is telling us that Brian Mulroney made a bad deal.

One area I am somewhat familiar with is the area of financial institutions. I would just like to point out the quality of the deal that we got as Canadians, as Ontarians, in that sector of our economy. "The essence of the deal for Canadians is that"—this is what Canadians give up—"Canadians agree that US financial entities will be as free as Canadians to purchase shares of Canadian-controlled financial institutions. Canadians further agree that US bank subsidiaries, individually and collectively, will be exempt from limitations on the total domestic assets of foreign bank subsidiaries in Canada." That was at the heart of the schedule-B-bank concept. We would control and regulate the growth and development of the foreign banks in Canada. What we have said now is that those banks have unlimited power to acquire as much capital as they want within our economy.

What did we get in return? "The United States agreed not to give Canadians treatment any less favourable than that accorded under sections 5 and 8 of the International Banking Act of 1978." What that says is we will be treated like all the

other foreign banking institutions and financial institutions that are already operating in the US.

It goes on, "To give Canadian financial institutions the same treatment as accorded to other US financial institutions with respect to amendments to the Glass-Steagall Act."

Without going into great detail, they did not give us anything but we gave up an awful lot, and although it has not been a hotly debated area within the trade agreement, I suggest to the members it is very important that we retain some control over the institutions which finance our industrial activity, our manufacturing activity and our service economy. What the trade deal does is give up the power to control.

To speak to the motion before us, I have looked at it and I have wondered what we would possibly do by way of exercising our full legislative and regulatory authority to prevent implementation of the trade agreement. I find it, I must say, somewhat lacking.

It does not provide a constructive solution. It suggests to me that we are to engage in retaliatory measures, measures to block investment, measures to block development of the economy, which in their own right will start multiplying, will start somersaulting, leading to all sorts of international trade problems, trade disagreements, trade litigation. So I cannot support it.

None the less, I would suggest that what we have offered is a constructive approach to this very difficult problem. The first thing that this government has done is said: "Let's listen to all those people in this society, in this economy, who are affected. Let them tell us what it means when the Brian Mulroney trade deal is imposed upon them." We are hearing, and we will continue to hear, not very good news.

In addition, we have heard many people from within the government say we have sadly neglected our international trading opportunities. The problem with this deal is that it is a bilateral deal when we have multilateral relations with the international world and we have not explored them, and that is one area we should be looking at.

I can tell members that I am pleased to see in the throne speech support for a variety of initiatives which will improve Ontario's trading position in the multilateral international economy whether or not this agreement comes through. They include support for the centres of entrepreneurship, the centres of excellence, an improved educational environment, because the thing that has made us as competitive as we are in the international environment, as an international

trading country and province, is the quality of the minds and the skills of our human capital.

That is what makes us such strong competitors internationally. That is clearly what the throne speech has spoken to, and that is a positive and constructive step to ensuring the protection of Ontario's economic and cultural interests in the future no matter what trade deal comes along.

Let me say that I do not oppose free trade. I should retract that. I do not oppose trade per se. What we are looking for is a good trade deal. What we have got is not a good trade deal but a very bad trade deal.

Mr. B. Rae: Madam Speaker, let me first of all congratulate you on your appointment and say how pleased we are to be working with you and note as well that it is something of a precedent. I believe you are the first woman to occupy a permanent position in the chair, and I think it is long overdue and we welcome the appointment. I am delighted to have been consulted by the Premier on your appointment and to have immediately said to him that it sounded to me like a very good idea indeed.

Let me also congratulate the member for York Mills (Mr. J. B. Nixon) on his first speech, and I will pay him perhaps the ultimate compliment of taking him on. I disagree with some of the things he said. I remember when I gave my first speech, not here but in another place, I not only was taken on, I was also heckled, and it was also on the first day of my being there. So I can assure the member that I do not mean any disrespect—quite the opposite—if I say something that indicates my disagreement with him.

1720

What I would like to do is not simply take the House back to the election campaign, which is painful enough for some of us, but also go to an earlier period.

Now I see I have to address—encore une fois, je dois m'adresser à encore une Présidente de la Chambre.

I believe the fundamental problem has been not simply the approach of the government from this point on or from the point of the announcement of the agreement at the beginning of October. The fundamental problem, and my colleague the member for Hamilton East (Mr. Mackenzie) has already alluded to it, has been the fact that this is not a new movie. This has been an ongoing process in this House, and it is quite right, there have been three very different schools of thought as to what has been needed.

The first school of thought was that of the Conservative Party, who said, "If Brian wants to

do it, it is a good idea." They are in favour ideologically, and I do not think it should be any surprise that a party that spent the first 100 years of its existence favouring a closer relationship with one imperial power—that is to say the British imperial power—would now spend another part of its existence trying to get close to the other source of imperial power in Canada, that is to say the Americans. I am going to leave that argument on its own for a moment.

I was going to say I have stirred up a wasps' nest, but then that would be completely misunderstood. I have stirred up a bees' nest and I want to make that very clear.

The second point of view has been that of our own party, and that is to say from the very start that Ontario should be doing whatever it can to stop the talks, because it was our conviction that nothing good could come of them. We were described, and we have been described again today by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, as narrow ideologues and simply being knee-jerk. The Premier at one point said, "I know all you want to do is for me to go in there and throw a bomb into the middle of the talks." At another point he described me as being juvenile. Today I think he said something personal about how various people were describing me. I frankly do not mind that, but I think that symbolizes the attitude of the Liberal Party. That is to say, if we disagree, then we are obviously not going to express that disagreement in principled terms but simply in an *ad hominem* kind of way.

But the fundamental point of the difference between us and the Liberals from the very beginning has been this: The Liberal Party and the Liberal caucus took a number of votes on this, I understand—these votes are, of course, not publicized, but we have reason to believe that in fact they took place—where it was discussed as to whether the party should be continuing to support the talks. At each step of the way the decision was yes, the Liberals should support the talks; the Liberal Party should not be seen to be walking away from the talks; they should continue with the talks and the Premier should continue to be there.

So I want to say that when the member for Kitchener (Mr. D. R. Cooke), who was the chairman of the standing committee on finance and economic affairs, brought down his reports, I am proud to say that it was the New Democratic Party that set up markers each time saying: "This is a mistake. If these talks continue in this way, nothing good will come of them, and by the time

you figure out what you want to do about it, it will be too late."

I would suggest to new members that they have a look at the report of the finance committee, both the first and the second report, and that they look at the dissent that was filed by the members of the New Democratic Party. It does not do me much comfort, having come through an election campaign, simply to say to the people, "Frankly, we told you that this is what was going to happen," but we did.

I also predicted—these are little things that I think are worth pointing out—what would happen has happened. As I said in my earlier remarks, this is one of the first times in history when Superman has gone into the phone booth and he has come out as Clark Kent, and that is exactly what has happened.

The party which said, "If this happens, no deal," all of a sudden says: "There is nothing we can do. What do you know? It is all in federal jurisdiction."

Is the Premier saying that the auto pact was not in federal jurisdiction during the election campaign? Is that the argument he is making? That is nonsense. It is to treat the issue with contempt. He knew perfectly well that technically there are some areas that are a matter of federal jurisdiction and there are other areas that are not. This is one of the continuing joys of constitutional lawyers.

The position of the New Democratic Party from the very beginning has been, "Look, we know what kind of an agreement there is going to be." I was not surprised by anything in the agreement. I am unlike some others who say, "Gosh, energy was in the agreement." What did they expect? Could they honestly expect when the Americans—Mr. Reagan announced it in 1980 when he said, "A continental approach to our energy problems with Mexico and Canada is part of my agenda." Why should they be surprised when they find that in the agreement?

The question that comes now is not how do we feel about this agreement. The question that comes to this House is what are we going to do about it.

I have one other point. I suggest the member for York Mills said it, when he said, "Look at the deal on financial institutions that they got." I am surprised the member for York Mills, because of his previous incarnation in working for a particular minister, would bring that up as the example, because who gave away the securities industry? Who was it who said, "We are going to let the Americans come right in on Bay Street and

simply take it over and have that kind of agreement, without getting anything in return”?

It was the minister, who is now the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology. If I am not mistaken, the member for York Mills was right in the office when it was happening. Either he did not come in for work that day or he was there. If he was there he has no right to come into this House and say: “Gee, the federal government was terrible. Look what they did to financial institutions. Look what the government of Ontario did to financial institutions. They gave the shop away. All Simon Reisman did was to continue the same trend and to do exactly the same thing.”

So I say the question is, what can we do? We have suggested that there are some things that can be done. The first thing that can be done is Ontario can say what the Premier even today was not prepared to say, which is that Ontario will not implement any aspect of the agreement which falls within provincial jurisdiction. The Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology says, “The deal is good for services.” I am not convinced that is true. I do think that many of the services that are talked about fall clearly within provincial jurisdiction. I am surprised to hear him say, “That is part of the agreement that is good so we are going to let that go through.”

Ontario has to have a sense of its place within Confederation, not necessarily bigger, or dramatically throwing its weight around, but a sense that we are nine million people. We are a province which reflects a vast diversity of industries and ways of making a living and making a life, and there is a very substantial consensus in this province against the Mulroney-Reagan trade pact.

The member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren) has described it more eloquently than many of us can, our own vision and sense of Canada. I think it is important that we focus now less on the rhetoric of what is in this agreement we do not like, because that is a subject for another day. What is important for this Legislature to make up its mind about is what it can do. We can make very clear we are not going to implement. We can challenge constitutionally. If our energies and resources are affected by this deal, and they are, the federal government has no right to do that. Why has the Premier not said that? Why did he not go into the Canadian Club today and say, “We feel that our ability to deal with our own energy and resources is affected by this deal and we are not going to let the federal government do that.”

As I said on another occasion, I believe the government of Ontario is profoundly ambivalent on this question. It does not want to do everything in its power to stop this deal because it is afraid. It is afraid of the reaction from its business friends. It is afraid of taking responsibility for stopping something that should not be allowed to continue. It is a dangerous strategy on the part of the province. It is a real gamble.

The government gambled two and a half years ago when it said: “Leave it to us. We will handle it. We will make sure the deal is okay.” It is gambling now with its laid back approach and I think it is something which we are right to criticize and which ought to change.

Mr. Runciman: Mr. Speaker, let me at the outset congratulate you on your appointment. It is nice to see the government giving some recognition to eastern Ontario. We certainly do not get much out of them and we appreciate seeing you sitting in the chair.

Mr. Elston: More than when you were in the position, Bob.

Mr. Runciman: No, not true.

Mr. Villeneuve: Murray, you are wrong again.

1730

Mr. Runciman: Not true, not true.

We welcome the emergency debate, but I think the thrust of it is probably off base. I think it would be more appropriate to be discussing the lack of preparedness on the part of this government in terms of how we are going to deal with the losers. Indeed, there are going to be some losers out of this agreement. The current government does not seem to be taking any steps in order to deal with that situation.

Members may recall that during the recent election campaign our leader proposed a \$2-billion adjustment fund to be phased in over a period of years to help in retraining, readjustment, relocation and so on. The government, to this point, has not taken any action in that regard. We feel it is very seriously negligent in that area and we urge the Premier to take a close look rather than simply wandering around the province or speaking in Prince Edward Island or Nova Scotia and bad-mouthing an agreement that is going to be approved.

We have heard the Leader of the Opposition, the member for York South (Mr. B. Rae), talking about the government being ambivalent. I do not really think it is ambivalent. I think the Premier and his followers quietly feel this is not a bad

deal—not a bad deal for Canada, not a bad deal for Ontario.

But he boxed himself into a situation in the election campaign. Obviously it worked, going around with the member for York South scaring the bejabbers out of people in this province with all the nasty things that were going to happen to us if we had a freer trade agreement with the United States. Forget about presenting alternatives, but scare the folks. It will generate votes. It worked to a significant extent; there is no question about it.

This is a great time for the New Democratic Party. This sort of thing is fodder for it. It is going to jump at anything that is an opportunity for the Socialist party to slam the US, although I should point out that the Leader of the Opposition does not like to be described as a socialist, if we recall his reaction during the election campaign, when he was not ready to admit publicly that he was indeed a socialist. I think all of us in this building know that he is indeed a socialist.

Anti-Americanism is an unwritten plank in the NDP platform. I am pleased to see, in any event, in a modest way, that the government is not associating itself with that kind of rhetoric.

We were talking about the Fortress Canada types who associate themselves with the NDP—Pierre Berton, Margaret Atwood, Mel Hurtig and the CBC, folks like that—people who really seem to have some sort of a vested interest in protectionism of one kind or another.

One can talk about the Toronto Star as another one which has been leading the way in terms of opposition to a freer trade agreement with the US. I always have a tough time with the leftist vitriol coming out of the Star.

Mr. Reville: I have a bit of a hard time with them myself.

Mr. Runciman: It is even too extreme for you, is it?

I have to wonder about Honderich. Who is advising the guy? I would like to see his reaction if the government proposed intervention in the print media. It might bring him to his senses in regard to not only the editorial thrust but also the news reporting thrust that particular journal has taken over the past number of years.

The new member for York Mills was talking about looking at our multilateral options. Of course, that is something the Toronto Star has been advocating strongly, but obviously forgetting about Mr. Trudeau's third option, the western European-Pacific Rim initiatives some time ago, which simply did not do any good. We have had David Crane, of course, from the Star

strongly pushing that. David Crane worked for the former federal Liberal government as a flunky, in my view, for the Liberal Party of Canada.

Hon. Mr. Elston: A good Tory?

Mr. Runciman: Do not make me laugh.

Mr. Philip: Did your seat catch fire?

Mr. Runciman: Yes, my seat caught fire. I can say these things four years before an election. In any event, I would like to put some comments on the record which I think are extremely valid and very pertinent to the debate being carried on today.

One of the comments is from Professor John Crispo, a rather noted economist: "It should be acknowledged that we would be compromising some of our political sovereignty in the course of trading off much of our economic sovereignty with the United States as part of a comprehensive free trade agreement, but I would argue that ultimately we are more likely to jeopardize this country as a separate political entity if we do not work out an economic arrangement with the US.

"My reasoning is as follows. Right now Canadians, on average, pay a premium of roughly 25 per cent to be Canadian. Our standard of living is simply that much lower than that of the United States. Presumably, most of this difference would gradually disappear if we chose to join the US lock, stock and barrel, but the 25 per cent less income is a reasonable price to pay to remain Canadian, and most Canadians obviously share this view or there would be a strong movement to join the US. But what if this 25 per cent difference increased to 30 or 35 per cent? At what point would Canadians, especially in the poorer eastern provinces or the hard-pressed western provinces, decide it is not worth it any more?

"If Canada does not work out a comprehensive economic deal with the United States, the differences between our standards of living will widen and that, as opposed to an economic deal with the United States, is more likely to prove Canada's undoing as a separate political entity. If all or part of Canada is ever absorbed by the United States, it is far less likely to occur by American design than it is by Canadian default. It is ironic, to say the least, that it is the ultra-nationalists who could prove the undoing of this country by standing in the way of a trade deal with the United States that could enhance our relative economic wellbeing and hence our political staying power as a separate national entity."

I strongly agree with Professor Crispo on that, and I think that is indeed the irony. When we talk about institutions such as the CBC, publishing and so on, if our standard of living does fall because we cannot reach an agreement with the United States, the public funding that is made available to those bodies is simply going to diminish and we are really going to threaten our culture. So there is no question that it is a great irony.

I want to talk about a couple of things with respect to my own riding. One of the major rivet manufacturers in Canada is located in my riding; 50 per cent of its product goes to the US. They have indicated to me that if we do not reach an agreement and there is the threat of tariff barriers being applied, they are going to establish a production facility in the United States to feed the US market. So we are going to lose employment in my riding through Bray Rivet and Machine.

Nitrochem Inc. is a major producer of chemical fertilizers. In Chicago a couple of months ago, the American Fertilizer Manufacturers Institute passed a resolution calling on Congress to apply tariff barriers to fertilizers going into the United States. Currently there are no tariffs facing exported chemical fertilizers to the US, and if they lose that market, if they are facing a barrier and cannot compete effectively with American producers, we are going to lose that plant in eastern Ontario and the 100-plus jobs that go with it. We can go on with numerous other practical considerations in terms of this deal where we have to look really carefully at what happens if this thing does go down the tubes.

What is going to happen to industries such as Bray Rivet? What is going to happen to Nitrochem? Those are very serious questions that have to be posed in this kind of debate. What are the alternatives? Let us just not throw stones at the Americans and throw stones at Mulroney. Let us come up with some very constructive, valid alternatives if we are going to lose this deal.

Mr. D. R. Cooke: Mr. Speaker, I too would like to congratulate you on your appointment. As well, I would like to congratulate the member for York Mills on his maiden speech. I might say for the record that there were about 51 rapt members in their seats while the member for York Mills spoke. I recall my own maiden speech during the throne speech debate two years ago when our own whip was trying valiantly to get about 20 into the chamber, and I think it speaks well, and it was a very thoughtful speech indeed.

1740

I approach this debate, of course, from the perspective of my experience as the former chairman of the former select committee on economic affairs. I might mention to the member for Leeds-Grenville (Mr. Runciman) that Professor Crispo, if I recall, was the only professional economist who appeared before that committee without being invited.

This committee had more thorough hearings on the generic issue of free trade between Canada and the United States than any other legislative body at either level, federal or provincial or state, on either side of the border. It was a committee that in its final report made recommendations that essentially coincide with the stands of the government. At that time, that coincidence occurred with the concurrence of the Conservatives. It is a stand that basically endorsed some negotiations but placed firm restrictions on the sort of agreement we wanted.

I can indicate that over the course of the last two and a half years the federal government made all kinds of promises but was also essentially unco-operative. It was unco-operative with our committee and from what I can gather it was very unco-operative with this government.

This government appointed a special trade policy negotiator in 1985. We have had interministerial committees at work trying to determine what sectors of Ontario's economy might benefit, what segments would not and what segments need help or adjustment assistance.

Frankly, with what I would call somewhat deceitful encouragement from the federal government, we understood that what we were talking about was how to temper a comprehensive free trade agreement. I indicated in October 1985—and I think a number of other members of this House have indicated their belief, and I still believe it—that we had and have a de facto veto over a comprehensive free trade agreement. We do.

To substantiate our case, we invited a noted political scientist, Professor Richard Simeon of Queen's University, to brief our committee on the subject and he did. It is found at page E-8 of the final report in which he says:

"In the Canadian tradition, the ratification of treaties is a crown prerogative transferred to the Canadian governor in council under the letters patent of 1948. Thus there is neither a legislative nor a federal element in how Canada formally accedes to a treaty, in contrast to the United States where the provision for Senate ratification brings in both components.

"The existing federal power to sign and ratify treaties has only limited consequences. This is because, as a result of the labour conventions case of 1937, the federal government's power to make treaties has not been extended to the power to implement them. Implementation requires legislation to give effect to treaties. A treaty does not automatically become the law of the land within Canada once it is ratified. When it comes to implementation, sections 91 and 92 of the Constitution Act, dividing authority between the federal and provincial governments, operate. Therefore, Ottawa cannot pass implementing legislation in areas of provincial jurisdiction. It can only do so in its own jurisdiction."

He then goes on to talk about tariffs, of course, being a federal jurisdiction, and says:

"When in recent years the issues centre on nontariff barriers, then the federal problem does arise. Now purchasing policies, subsidies, the regulation and taxing of resources and a host of other matters within provincial jurisdiction become subjects of international negotiation. This will be especially true for the free trade negotiations with the United States since tariffs are already low and are not considered to be a major item on the agenda of either country."

So there is where the power lies. But I would indicate, and it was made quite clear by our committee as well, that there is a contrary position. There is a contrary position that was presented to us by Professor Ruth Sullivan at the faculty of law of the University of Ottawa who argues quite persuasively that there is an overriding federal jurisdiction in this matter that might in fact give a trade agreement with a foreign country overriding federal power. The committee did not agree with Miss Sullivan but we did not hide her view.

The fact of the matter is that the federal government could take us to court and maybe it could make it stick.

Let us be sensible about this. I am not disagreeing with anything the member for Hamilton East or the Leader of the Opposition has said with regard to the history of this debate, but let us be sensible. Right now, we are looking at a question of tactics as to how we should be opposing this agreement. I suggest we do so discreetly.

I have had some opportunity to discuss these matters with legislators in other provinces, and I can say that they do regard Ontarians with suspicion. This is a fact. Bob White will have a difficult time convincing a prairie wheat farmer that free trade is bad for him. The Leader of the

Opposition has not convinced me that the standing committee on finance and economic affairs should travel at great expense and talk to oil workers at Lake Athabasca. I am much more impressed when I see Joe Ghiz, Howard Pawley or Brian Peckford speaking on behalf of small provinces. That is a much more effective tool than the fat cat arguing, let me tell you.

However, in the time that remains, let me remind the House of some areas in which the province may choose to be unco-operative if it wishes. I am speaking of the areas of some services. The Macdonald Royal Commission on Economic Union and Development Prospects for Canada recommended against including services in a comprehensive trade agreement. The federal government's own secret reports recommend against it. The Economic Council of Canada has not examined the effects of free trade in services. Nevertheless, the agreement provides that there will be treatment of each other's citizens that is no less favourable than that granted to its own citizens with respect to all new measures affecting services. Dealing with services, it also provides a right of establishment, the right to cross-border sales, discipline of public monopolies and a binding dispute settlement mechanism.

National treatment is something that has been defined by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, and I think we can have a grasp as to what the federal government is getting us into in this regard. It is, basically, no internal discrimination. Once goods or services have entered a country, the host country will treat them no less favourably than goods or services of domestic origin. It has never been done in services, but at least we know what that means.

The agreement also refers to right of establishment. That is apparently a grey area that includes more than the basic national treatment.

The term it includes that really confuses us is "the right of a commercial presence." I understand we have been trying to find out from the federal government exactly what "right of commercial presence" means, and we cannot get a straight answer. We cannot get a definitive answer. They give us examples and the examples contradict one another.

I took the opportunity to ask a United States administrative official, and the answer came back that in their view it means that it covers every individual and every small business that does anything. It covers all the options. So we do have some way in which we can look at what, apparently, the federal government is asking us to consent to: the control over the sale of real

estate in our province, the control over the sale of motor vehicles in our province, the travel industry and the accounts that it has, requiring Canadian residency of our head offices and Canadian residency of the people who are operating those industries, collection agencies, etc.

I am suggesting that in the circumstances of our being asked to do this, we refrain from doing it. I am also suggesting that in these circumstances the federal government should have asked to have extradition laws apply to those people who come into this country to try to proffer that sort of activity, so that in fact we could carry out the good consumer protection laws that we have in this province.

1750

Mr. Morin-Strom: First, I would like to congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on your re-election to your position as Speaker of the House and wish you much success in trying to control the atmosphere in this House. Hopefully, we can accomplish a lot in the next years to come.

This is a very important debate that we are conducting today on an issue of an utterly critical nature for the future of Canada, not only for the economic future of our country but also for our future as a sovereign nation.

We have to stand up in this Legislature not only for the citizens of Ontario but also for our country as a whole, in the face of an overwhelming majority Conservative government which is intent upon imposing an agreement that is not in the interests of the people of this province nor in the interests of the people of Canada as a nation.

I would hope that we have a government that will be activist, that will live up to its campaign promises and will in fact act on the commitment of the Premier that there will be no agreement if the auto pact is threatened; that there will be no agreement if our agricultural industry is threatened and we are going to lose the opportunity for family farms in this province; that we would have no agreement if regional development programs are threatened by this agreement; and that there will be no agreement if there is not a binding dispute-settlement mechanism in this agreement.

Most fundamentally, the Premier made a clear commitment in the election campaign that there would be no agreement if the cultural sovereignty of our nation is threatened.

The time for the Premier to live up to that commitment is now. We know the agreement. We know in fact that the Liberal Party has come to the conclusion that it is not a winning agreement, that we have given up more than we

have achieved. They have stated that, but they refuse to state what they are going to do to stop this agreement.

It is incumbent upon them. They have been given the mandate of the people of this province to take action on this issue, which was the highlight of an election campaign which saw the only party strongly supporting free trade in that election campaign decimated in Ontario; left with barely 10 per cent of the seats in this Legislature.

The time to act is now. The agreement is in front of us, and the time is running short.

We have had some comments from a number of the members today. The last comment from the member for Leeds-Grenville stated that this agreement is going to be a great success and what was going to be the alternative if we did not go ahead with an agreement on free trade with the United States?

The alternative is to continue the situation we have now and address those individual disputes as they arise and fight with the strength of our country and the strength of our province on the individual industries that are threatened.

Our trade agreement, our trade situation with the United States currently, is a good one. It is not a disaster scenario. We are running a tremendous surplus of \$20-billion plus in trade with the US. We could hardly expect that a major agreement with a partner with which we are running a tremendous surplus is going to be giving us the opportunity to even increase that surplus, and the result certainly indicates that the Americans want back their share and that we are not the beneficiaries.

The people of Canada have indicated that in the survey that was released today. Clearly—and I think quite rightly—62 per cent of them believe the Americans won the agreement. Only seven per cent believe Canada won in this agreement. There is no indication that there is support for this agreement, and the party opposite us that has been given a mandate to act to stop this agreement has the will of the people to do something about it.

With the member for Kitchener (Mr. D. R. Cooke), with whom I enjoyed two years on the standing committee on finance and economic affairs, we have looked at this situation, the possibility of this agreement, for nearly two years. In his remarks just concluded, he talked about what we thought or at least what the Liberals thought we were talking about in terms of a possible agreement.

Unfortunately, the Liberals on that committee got taken in by the Conservatives and by the federal government in terms of what the potential of that agreement was going to be. They would not stand up and say we have to get out of that negotiation, that all we could possibly do is lose in such a negotiating format. He should have listened more closely to the former Conservative member for York East, Robert Elgie, who was an initial member of the economic affairs committee and stated that he could not understand at all why the federal Conservatives were entering into negotiations for a comprehensive free trade agreement at a time when we were running the tremendous surplus we were, when we had all the advantages in terms of the overall trade relationship. There were disputes on a lot of individual industries, but overall we had the advantage.

The opening up of discussion in not only the dispute areas, which were under focus, but in all the various areas of our economy and our economic relationship has ended with the result we have. We have areas included in the agreement which a number of people on our committee did not perceive would possibly be included, and now we are giving up those opportunities in a field such as energy, for example. We are giving up the total opportunity for our own national energy program.

We cannot allocate the energy to meet Canada's needs first. We are giving up the right to determine a Canadian price for energy, different from an American price or a world price. The Americans will be given the same opportunity to buy our resources. Our resources belong to the people of Canada. We have to keep control of our resources and it is absolute folly for any government in this country to promise to another nation the commitment that those resources will be made available to them on the same equal basis that they will be made available to Canadians.

The New Democratic Party position throughout the trade discussions and throughout our

committee's deliberations over the last two years has been that the talks should never have started and that the talks should have been stopped at any possible opportunity. We have not benefited from the agreement that has been reached and we now have to face the consequences. The government has been given a mandate to take action and it is incumbent upon it to do so.

We have given away most of what the Americans asked for in this deal. We have given away full access to Canadian energy supplies.

The United States has received an open market for investment in Canada.

The US receives free trade in services, a precedent-setting deal that will be a model for the US to use in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade negotiations to open up services on a worldwide basis. Nothing in this area is of apparent benefit to Canada.

The agreement meets the US demand for the protection of intellectual property, which translates in the pharmaceutical industry into the current drug bill on generic drugs, which commitment the Conservative government has made to the Americans to fulfil.

In the auto industry we have agreed to give up the auto pact. The auto pact is a non-entity at this point. The only mechanism for enforcing the auto pact and the requirements on Canadian content was that the benefit to the auto companies meeting those requirements was to get duty-free access of auto parts and finished vehicles back and forth across the borders between the two countries. With no tariffs, there is no penalty and no reason for them to maintain those Canadian content requirements.

In agriculture, we have given up our right to control our own agricultural policies in the future.

It is time for this Liberal government to act on its commitment in the election campaign to stop this agreement. I call upon the Premier to do so.

The House adjourned at 6 p.m.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS

(130 seats)

First Session, 34th Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. Lincoln M. Alexander, PC, QC

-
- Adams, Peter (Peterborough L)
 Allen, Richard (Hamilton West NDP)
 Ballinger, William G. (Durham-York L)
 Beer, Charles (York North L)
 Black, Kenneth H. (Muskoka-Georgian Bay L)
 Bossy, Maurice L. (Chatham-Kent L)
Bradley, Hon. James J., Minister of the Environment (St. Catharines L)
 Brandt, Andrew S. (Sarnia PC)
 Breagh, Michael J. (Oshawa NDP)
 Brown, Michael A. (Algoma-Manitoulin L)
 Bryden, Marion H. (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
 Callahan, Robert V. (Brampton South L)
 Campbell, Sterling (Sudbury L)
Caplan, Hon. Elinor, Minister of Health (Oriole L)
 Carrothers, Douglas A. (Oakville South L)
 Charlton, Brian A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)
 Chiarelli, Robert (Ottawa West L)
 Cleary, John C. (Cornwall L)
 Collins, Shirley (Wentworth East L)
Conway, Hon. Sean G., Minister of Mines (Renfrew North L)
 Cooke, David R. (Kitchener L)
 Cooke, David S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
 Cordiano, Joseph (Lawrence L)
 Cousens, W. Donald (Markham PC)
 Cureatz, Sam L. (Durham East PC)
Curling, Hon. Alvin, Minister of Skills Development (Scarborough North L)
 Daigeler, Hans (Nepean L)
 Dietsch, Michael M. (St. Catharines-Brock L)
Eakins, Hon. John F., Minister of Municipal Affairs (Victoria-Haliburton L)
Edighoffer, Hon. Hugh A., Speaker (Perth L)
 Elliot, R. Walter (Halton North L)
Elston, Hon. Murray J., Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Bruce L)
 Epp, Herbert A. (Waterloo North L)
 Eves, Ernie L. (Parry Sound PC)
 Farnan, Michael (Cambridge NDP)
 Faubert, Frank (Scarborough-Ellesmere L)
 Fawcett, Joan M. (Northumberland L)
 Ferraro, Rick E. (Guelph L)
 Fleet, David (High Park-Swansea L)
Fontaine, Hon. René, Minister of Northern Development (Cochrane North L)
Fulton, Hon. Ed, Minister of Transportation (Scarborough East L)
 Furlong, Allan W. (Durham Centre L)
Grandmaitre, Hon. Bernard C., Minister of Revenue (Ottawa East L)
 Grier, Ruth A. (Etobicoke-Lakeshore NDP)
 Haggerty, Ray (Niagara South L)
 Hampton, Howard (Rainy River NDP)
 Harris, Michael D. (Nipissing PC)
 Hart, Christine E. (York East L)
 Henderson, D. James (Etobicoke-Humber L)
Hošek, Hon. Chaviva, Minister of Housing (Oakwood L)
 Jackson, Cameron (Burlington South PC)
 Johnson, Jack (Wellington PC)
 Johnston, Richard F. (Scarborough West NDP)
 Kanter, Ron (St. Andrew-St. Patrick L)
Kerrio, Hon. Vincent G., Minister of Natural Resources (Niagara Falls L)
 Keyes, Kenneth A. (Kingston and the Islands L)
 Kozyra, Taras B. (Port Arthur L)
Kwinter, Hon. Monte, Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Wilson Heights L)
 Laughren, Floyd (Nickel Belt NDP)
 LeBourdais, Linda (Etobicoke West L)
 Leone, Laureano (Downsview L)
 Lipsett, Ron (Grey L)
 Lupusella, Tony (Dovercourt L)
 MacDonald, Keith (Prince Edward-Lennox L)
 Mackenzie, Bob (Hamilton East NDP)
 Mahoney, Steven W. (Mississauga West L)
Mancini, Hon. Remo, Minister without Portfolio (Essex South L)
 Marland, Margaret (Mississauga South PC)
 Martel, Shelley (Sudbury East NDP)
 Matrundola, Gino (Willowdale L)
 McCague, George R. (Simcoe West PC)
 McClelland, Carman (Brampton North L)
 McGuigan, James F. (Essex-Kent L)
 McGuinty, Dalton J. (Ottawa South L)
 McLean, Allan K. (Simcoe East PC)
McLeod, Hon. Lyn, Minister of Colleges and Universities (Fort William L)
 Miclash, Frank (Kenora L)
 Miller, Gordon I. (Norfolk L)
 Morin, Gilles E. (Carleton East L)
 Morin-Strom, Karl E. (Sault Ste. Marie NDP)

Munro, Hon. Lily O., Minister of Culture and Communications (Hamilton Centre L)

Neumann, David E. (Brantford L)

Nicholas, Cindy (Scarborough Centre L)

Nixon, J. Bradford (York Mills L)

Nixon, Hon. Robert F., Deputy Premier, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics and Minister of Financial Institutions (Brant-Haldimand L)

Offer, Steven (Mississauga North L)

O'Neil, Hon. Hugh P., Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Quinte L)

O'Neill, Yvonne (Ottawa-Rideau L)

Owen, Bruce (Simcoe Centre L)

Patten, Hon. Richard, Minister of Government Services (Ottawa Centre L)

Pelissero, Harry E. (Lincoln L)

Peterson, Hon. David R., Premier and President of the Council and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (London Centre L)

Philip, Ed (Etobicoke-Rexdale NDP)

Phillips, Hon. Gerry, Minister of Citizenship (Scarborough-Agincourt L)

Poirier, Jean (Prescott and Russell L)

Pollock, Jim (Hastings-Peterborough PC)

Polsinelli, Claudio (Yorkview L)

Poole, Dianne (Eglinton L)

Pope, Alan W. (Cochrane South PC)

Pouliot, Gilles (Lake Nipigon NDP)

Rae, Bob (York South NDP)

Ramsay, Hon. David, Minister of Correctional Services (Timiskaming L)

Ray, Michael C. (Windsor-Walkerville L)

Reville, David (Riverdale NDP)

Reycraft, Douglas R. (Middlesex L)

Riddell, Hon. Jack, Minister of Agriculture and Food (Huron L)

Roberts, Marietta L. D. (Elgin L)

Runciman, Robert W. (Leeds-Grenville PC)

Ruprecht, Tony (Parkdale L)

Scott, Hon. Ian G., Attorney General (St. George-St. David L) Smith, David W. (Lambton L)

Smith, Hon. E. Joan, Solicitor General (London South L)

Sola, John (Mississauga East L)

Sorbara, Hon. Gregory S., Minister of Labour (York Centre L)

South, Larry (Frontenac-Addington L)

Sterling, Norman W. (Carleton PC)

Stoner, Norah (Durham West L)

Sullivan, Barbara (Halton Centre L)

Swart, Mel (Welland-Thorold NDP)

Sweeney, Hon. John, Minister of Community and Social Services (Kitchener-Wilmot L)

Tatham, Charlie (Oxford L)

Van Horne, Ronald G. (London North L)

Velshi, Murad (Don Mills L)

Villeneuve, Noble (Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry PC)

Ward, Hon. Christopher C., Minister of Education (Wentworth North L)

Wildman, Bud (Algoma NDP)

Wilson, Hon. Mavis, Minister without Portfolio (Dufferin-Peel L)

Wiseman, Douglas J. (Lanark-Renfrew PC)

Wong, Hon. Robert C., Minister of Energy (Fort York L)

Wrye, Hon. William, Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Windsor-Sandwich L)

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No. 3

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario



First Session, 34th Parliament

Thursday, November 5, 1987

Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer

Clerk of the House: Claude L. DesRosiers

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Thursday, November 5, 1987

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

Prayers.

CRAIG JAMES

Mr. Speaker: I would like to call to the attention of the House a visitor at the table, Craig James, the Second Clerk Assistant and Clerk of Committees of the British Columbia Legislature, who is on attachment to the Office of the Clerk.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE

Mr. Swart: I just want to say that the two-day start of this legislative session certainly does not confirm the adage that bigger is better. The Premier (Mr. Peterson) is contradictory and confused on his free trade stance and options and the new Minister of Financial Institutions (Mr. R. F. Nixon), who usually performs quite competently, has no handle at all on what he is doing with automobile insurance legislation. He does not even know what is in the bill he tabled yesterday.

On November 3 he informed the media that there was no capping of insurance rates in the bill. However, the bill tabled on November 4 contained exactly the same capping provisions, including the 10 per cent rollback for males under 25 and taxi drivers, as were in the bill his predecessor tabled last May. Today, November 5, the media are still quoting the minister as saying the 10 per cent rollback is not in the bill.

Prior to and during the election campaign, the Premier and the former minister flatly stated that the government would not permit rate classifications based on age, sex or marital status. Instead of reiterating that in his statement to the House or in the legislation yesterday, the minister said that rate classifications will be subject to "public consultation prior to finalization," but he cannot see any change in position between that statement and the election promise of his leader.

Perhaps I am being too hard on the minister. I should perhaps be blaming his acting deputy minister, Jack Lyndon of the Insurance Bureau of Canada, who is obviously putting the words in the minister's mouth.

TEMAGAMI DISTRICT RESOURCES

Mr. Harris: The Premier (Mr. Peterson) and his Liberal friends are now entertaining a proposal to dramatically expand an existing wilderness area near Temagami in northeastern Ontario and he is giving credibility to what we believe is a self-serving southern-Ontario-based plan to ban all existing and future primary resource operations in the area.

It could eliminate an estimated 15,000 direct and indirect resource jobs in the north, which is about the same as wiping out about 200,000 jobs in Metro Toronto. It is hard to believe that is what the Premier and our Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio) are now seriously contemplating. The minister's waffling on this issue has already jeopardized and probably doomed 200 direct jobs and the entire mill operation at the Milne lumber company in Temagami, one more sign of the Premier's willingness to put northerners out of work for political gain in the south.

The minister has already held up access to timber allocations in the area for close to a year. Sportsmen and recreationists have already discovered locked gates across access roads, and now the Liberals have appointed yet another committee to review the mess that they alone created. We do not need another committee, we need our jobs and we are prepared to fight for our jobs.

The Premier's friends are welcome to canoe in our workplace, but at a cost of 15,000 jobs, or even one job, the current price of admission is too high. I call on members of this House to take a stand on this northern Ontario issue and to oppose this Liberal economic insanity before another job is lost.

ALEX BAUMANN

Mr. Campbell: I wish to inform the House of an exemplary young Sudburian who has left his mark on the international athletic community. I am speaking of Alex Baumann. Last week he officially announced his retirement from competitive swimming at the age of 23.

Fourteen years ago, Alex began his career under the expertise of his coach and mentor, Dr. Jeno Tihanyi. The thousands of hours of practice

time in the pool paid off. Alex Baumann has won numerous awards in his area of specialty, the 200- and 400-metre individual medley. Sudburians were extremely proud of Alex in 1984, when he won two gold medals at the Los Angeles Olympics, the first time in 72 years that Canada had won a gold in the pool.

His immediate plans include completing his education at Laurentian University, where he is majoring in political science—this is the second day in a row that we have had somebody majoring in political science; it is a field of the future, I would say—and his forthcoming marriage in Australia next year.

Alex Baumann is certainly a young man of whom Canadians can be justifiably proud. I ask the members of the House to join me in paying tribute to Alex Baumann.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Today I want to make comments, and very sad comments, about a gentleman in my riding who passed away the other day, Frank Pival. Frank was employed with Wyeth Ltd. pharmaceuticals at Windsor for 29 years. Throughout his employment, he worked with a multitude of harmful substances. One substance commonly used was formaldehyde, which he used for washing bottles and a number of other things that they use that chemical for in the pharmaceutical industry. Workers were required to put their hands in the substance without gloves. Formaldehyde is a known carcinogenic, and many of the other chemicals that Frank worked with were in the same classification.

On Tuesday night Frank died of brain cancer. He was 49 years old. Frank knew for some time that he was going to die. His hope was that if compensation came too late to help him, at least he would know that compensation would be available for his family after he died. If he had known this, at least it might have lessened the suffering he went through in the last several months.

In the last year and a half, our offices contacted the Workers' Compensation Board 17 times without success. The Ministry of Labour has lost files. The Workers' Compensation Board has lost files. The matter has been referred out to consultant after consultant and, as of today, there is still no compensation for this family. This is an outrage in Ontario.

HARRY MULHALL

Mr. Pollock: I would like to pay tribute to Harry Mulhall, who died yesterday at the age of

53. Harry Mulhall was the city editor of the Belleville Intelligencer and the dean of its staff. He started working with the Intelligencer in 1962 and before that had worked with a variety of northern papers and radio stations.

Harry had interviewed me on many occasions, and I always felt he was fair in his editorials and factually accurate. The Belleville Intelligencer under his guidance gave equal coverage to the four Ontario ridings in the Quinte area. Harry Mulhall was a credit to his profession and the community in which he lived and was a devoted family man. He took a keen interest in the workings of the Ontario Legislature and he will be sorely missed.

1340

ENERGY POLICY

Mr. Tatham: In early 1951, the Parliament of Canada incorporated a company called Trans-Canada PipeLines. In 1953, it decided that the export of natural gas should not be permitted until it was satisfied that there could be no economic use, present or future, for the gas within Canada. This was a Canada-first natural gas policy.

In the fall of 1955, after the TransCanada pipeline company had suggested it could finance the rest of the line if the section in northern Ontario from the Manitoba border to Kapuskasing could be publicly financed, the governments of Canada and Ontario signed to establish a crown company to build and own a section of the pipeline.

The pipeline from Alberta was built and our citizens in northern and eastern Ontario had a supply of natural gas. Our parliamentarians had the vision to promote a great national undertaking which contributes to the preservation of Canadian independence and the strengthening of the Canadian economy.

Have we now changed our minds? When we read *The Seven Sisters* by Anthony Sampson or *The Control of Oil* by John M. Blair, do we not question the energy proposal in the free trade agreement? We live in an energy-intensive age and we live in a cold climate. In our deliberations, let us be forthright and encourage a Canada-first energy policy. Anything else would be tantamount to selling off our heritage. Are we not stealing from our children?

TEACHERS' LABOUR DISPUTES

Mr. Reville: I want to reiterate again today that it is very much time for the government, and the Minister of Education (Mr. Ward) in

particular, to re-examine the profound stupidity of Bill 127. I invite the minister to review, because he was not here at the time, the debate that took place when Bill 127 was rammed down the throats of unsuspecting parents, teachers and students in Ontario. Of course, that is the bill that requires joint bargaining between teachers and the Metropolitan Toronto School Board, which resulted in a strike and a stoppage of children's education that would not have been necessary were it not for the existence of this absolutely dumb-headed bill.

It may be remembered that the purpose of the bill was to mask the underfunding of education, to reduce the accountability of school trustees and to try to shut out the trustees of the Board of Education of the City of Toronto. It is clearly folly to proceed with bargaining this way, and the minister had better get on to it.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

TRADE WITH UNITED STATES

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: I would like to make a brief statement to the Legislature today. On October 8 the Premier (Mr. Peterson) announced several initiatives to put before the public the consequences of the draft Canada-US free trade agreement and to explain the reasons for Ontario's objections to the proposed pact.

At that time, the Premier promised to release a number of background papers previously prepared by my ministry and subsequently reviewed and reassessed in the light of the information we received from the federal government on October 6.

This government believes the people of Ontario have a right to know the facts and the implications of the proposed free trade agreement and that Ontarians have a right to assess the proposal and all of its consequences.

I am pleased to announce that I am releasing the first of these papers today. Others will follow, as they are completed. The independent study is titled *Dispute Settlement in the Canada-US Trade Agreement* and was prepared by Philip Slayton and Jack Quinn of the Toronto law firm of Blake, Cassels and Graydon.

It is appropriate that this is our first report. It deals in detail with the foundation of an acceptable free trade pact, the fair and uniform application of and access to dispute settlement mechanisms by both nations. Both those in favour of the agreement and those opposed to it agree effective dispute settlement is absolutely necessary.

In April 1987, the Prime Minister, Brian Mulroney, stated, "The US trade remedy laws cannot apply to Canada, period." Mr. Mulroney stated in the House of Commons a month ago when he announced the agreement, "We wanted an agreement that guaranteed fair and impartial application of US trade remedy laws, and this agreement does all of those things." In fact, the report concludes that the proposal does none of those things.

The report pinpoints four areas where the federal government has failed to negotiate an effective dispute settlement mechanism. Briefly, it does not impose legally effective limits on protectionist measures; it is not binding; it is not any more effective than what already exists and it does not involve interested participants, such as the provincial governments or the private sector. In fact, the agreement does not give us any assurance that we will be dealt with more fairly.

As the Premier has stated, Canadians may get the chance to examine the deck, but we will not be able to do anything about the fact that it is stacked against us. The report further states that the mechanisms in the agreement are flawed in ways that will result in our being denied access to US markets.

The executive summary concludes: "The mechanisms do not pre-empt US trade remedies... They do not produce binding decisions... They are not particularly workable... They do not provide for appropriate participation by interested parties." Clearly, the federal government failed to gain what it wanted. Worse, it left Canada with little leverage in the future.

In other words, the original goal of the deal—to secure access to the US market—will not be realized under the proposed dispute settlement mechanisms. In fact, the mechanisms in this agreement offer Canadians no more avenues of protection from harassment than already exist. US trade laws remain intact and we receive no real protection from US trade harassment.

It is obvious that there can be no free trade without secure access and there can be no secure access without clear-cut dispute settlement mechanisms.

CONFLICT-OF-INTEREST GUIDELINES

Hon. Mr. Scott: On Tuesday of this week the government introduced the Members' Conflict of Interest Act, 1987, as Bill 1. We thereby intended to indicate the priority which this matter should receive in the coming session of the Legislature. I wish to inform the House of the steps which the government has taken to guard

against conflict of interest in the period before passage of the bill.

The government, on a voluntary basis, has determined that during this interim period the bill will be treated as if it were already in force with respect to cabinet ministers and parliamentary assistants. The government has put in place two distinct sets of safeguards in order to ensure that compliance with the bill by cabinet ministers and parliamentary assistants is complete and timely.

The government has retained the firm of Blake, Cassels and Graydon to interview cabinet ministers and parliamentary assistants in order to obtain disclosure of their personal holdings, assets and liabilities and the holdings of their spouses and minor children. Interviews have also been conducted by the firm to ensure that ministers and parliamentary assistants have arranged, or can arrange within the time permitted, their affairs so as to comply with the bill within the limits it contemplates. These assurances were communicated to the Premier (Mr. Peterson) prior to the appointment of the cabinet by a senior partner of the Blake, Cassels firm.

One of the central features of Bill 1 is the establishment of an independent commissioner who will prepare public disclosure statements for all members and rule on situations of conflict of interest. In order to achieve the effective application of the bill to cabinet ministers and parliamentary assistants prior to its passage, the government has appointed the Honourable John Black Aird as interim conflicts commissioner.

Members will recall that in 1986 the Premier asked Mr. Aird to recommend a new set of conflict rules for Ontario. His report, delivered in the fall of 1986, formed in large measure the model for Bill 1. I am sure all members of the House will agree that Mr. Aird is an ideal choice to assume the duties of interim commissioner. The government has asked Mr. Aird to retain whatever assistance he requires to fulfil his duties, including the use of members of his law firm.

Mr. Aird's first responsibility will be to prepare the public disclosure statements for ministers and parliamentary assistants. As of November 4, Mr. Aird had received a complete report on the holdings of ministers, parliamentary assistants, their spouses and minor children in accordance with section 11 of the bill. As the bill requires, Mr. Aird will meet with these members and their spouses in order to prepare the public disclosure statements contemplated by the bill.

Mr. Aird has advised that he expects to be in a position to file the public disclosure statements

for ministers with the Clerk of the House by the end of November and the statements for parliamentary assistants by the end of December. During the interim period, Mr. Aird will also have the function of determining whether cabinet ministers or parliamentary assistants are in compliance with the bill and of reporting his findings to the government.

As was indicated in the speech from the throne, the people of Ontario must have confidence in the integrity of their elected representatives. I am confident that the measures the government has announced today will reinforce and enhance that public confidence.

1350

CRIME PREVENTION WEEK

Hon. Mrs. Smith: As many honourable members know, this is Crime Prevention Week and we are marking the occasion with seminars and award presentations around Ontario.

Crime Prevention Week focuses public attention on police forces and members of the public who have worked together to make Ontario a safer place for all of us. It is a way of thanking them for past efforts and it is a way of strengthening the partnership between the police and the public.

That bond is paying real dividends. All around Ontario you see signs identifying Block Parent and Neighbourhood Watch communities. A variety of citizens' groups is helping us wage the war against drinking and driving. Private businesses and service clubs have on many occasions helped to promote worthwhile crime prevention programs.

The public at large is reaping the benefits of that involvement and this week I have been experiencing that involvement first hand as I visit communities around the province to present special awards to some of the police officers and private citizens who have made outstanding contributions to crime prevention.

All told, my ministry will be presenting 253 people and organizations with the Solicitor General's Crime Prevention Awards, a gesture by this government to honour leadership and achievement in the field of crime prevention.

Those award presentations are part of this week's crime prevention seminars in Smiths Falls, Lindsay, North Bay, Sault Ste. Marie, Terrace Bay, Dryden, Windsor, Brantford, Owen Sound and Toronto.

I know many members of this House have supported crime prevention programs in their ridings and I thank them for their assistance.

Teamwork between all parts of the community is a big part of any successful crime prevention program and all of us should make the effort.

RESPONSES

TRADE WITH THE UNITED STATES

Mr. B. Rae: I want to respond to the statement by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Mr. Kwinter). I do not think it should come as any surprise to anybody in this room that the American Congress has refused through the trade negotiations to give up its capacity and its power to effect its economic sovereignty, its ability as a sovereign body in Congress to deal with imports as they come into that country.

I have said for a period of two and a half years it was inevitable that the American Congress would continue to insist on its power and capacity to retain some kind of economic control over the economy of the United States. I do not think anybody should expect the American Congress to do what Brian Mulroney seems only too willing to do. He seems to be the only one willing to give up his capacity to intervene in the economy. The American Congress is not going to be so blind as to do that.

We appreciate the briefing from Blake, Cassels and Graydon. I am sure it is worth the price we are all paying for it. But the question I have for the government—and I will have a chance to ask it again—is simply what is it going to do about it? None of this should come as any surprise to any of us. The question is whether or not Ontario is going to do what the Premier (Mr. Peterson) has been telling us for two and a half years he would do and what he said during the election campaign he would do. It would now appear, as more and more evidence is gathered, that what we have is a government that has been elected on false premises.

I do not know whether the consumer protection legislation that the member for Windsor-Sandwich (Mr. Wrye) is going to be bringing down is going to give the people of the province a remedy against political fraud, but I would hope it would, because what we have here is a government that has been elected on an utterly fraudulent basis, saying it would do something about an agreement and when that agreement comes down saying, then and now, there is nothing it can do about it. That situation should be exposed. It is disgraceful. It is a fraud and we are going to continue to expose it in this House.

Mr. Morin-Strom: I would also like to comment briefly on the report that was issued today and commented on by the Minister of

Industry, Trade and Technology. I think it is rather unfortunate that the minister has not brought anything new to light beyond what is in the report.

The report tells what we all knew, that there is no dispute settlement mechanism provided for in this agreement. There is no effective remedy from American law for attacks on Canadian industry and we are going to have to bide by the provisions of American law when it comes to trade with the United States. We do not have any control of our own destiny in terms of our economic relationship.

The issue is: Why has the minister not said anything about what he is going to do about this deplorable situation? He reiterates everything we already know and says nothing about what he is going to do to live up to the commitment that was made by that government when it was elected less than two months ago. It was committed to do something to stop a free trade agreement that did not fulfil six conditions. These conditions have not been fulfilled, and this report clearly says that the key condition, which had been advocated by the Canadian government and by industries across Canada, has not been met.

The issue at this point is: What is the minister going to do to ensure that we do have this agreement ended, as this government has committed itself to the population of this province to do?

CONFLICT-OF-INTEREST GUIDELINES

Mr. Breagh: I want to respond briefly to the statement today by the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) on conflict of interest.

John Black Aird is one of our most distinguished Canadians. We should be relishing this moment today when this kind of statement is made, and I wish we could.

It is unfortunate that the minister set a rather evil precedent by introducing this bill in this forum on the day when the speech from the throne was read. It is worse yet that he appoints a commissioner to handle conflict of interest before the legislation is passed. It is worse yet that he thoughtlessly implemented the legislation before he even introduced it to the Legislature.

I am afraid we are off on the wrong foot here entirely. What the minister seems to have missed completely is that this is not about hiring a good law firm or hiring a decent commissioner. It is about the perception among all members here, and the public at large in Ontario, as to whether he has handled the conflict-of-interest issue adequately.

I regret to inform the minister that despite his wise choice of a commissioner, everything else he has done has been in the wrong direction so far.

TRADE WITH UNITED STATES

Mr. Brandt: I want to take this opportunity to respond briefly to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, and the legal position that he has put forward from Blake, Cassels and Graydon with respect to the dispute settlement mechanism.

I find it passing strange, and I share this with the members of the Legislature, that a very carefully crafted legal position that obviously took a number of weeks to develop was given to the members of the opposition, and a response was anticipated within minutes after having received the document.

I find that to be somewhat unfair and inappropriate when one looks at the importance of this issue as it relates to Ontario and to Canada.

I also find it strange that in the minister's statement there is more left out than perhaps has been included. As an example, the minister makes no reference whatever to the fact that this really is a two-phased process. He knows full well that the dispute settlement mechanism that has been reviewed by Blake, Cassels and Graydon is the first stage of a process that will take perhaps another five years. Both sides have, in fact, agreed that there has to be a more firm understanding with respect to the dispute settlement mechanism, and that the actual framework or the time frame for resolving that very key issue will take some period of time, so that if there are any weaknesses which have been identified in a very careful way by the law firm that he had review this document, those weaknesses can be corrected.

The minister also fails to mention, in any way, shape or form, that the present mechanism that is being proposed replaces absolutely nothing. At the moment, we have no mechanism whatever. Even if this present mechanism is flawed, as he suggests, there is nothing on the table at the moment to help us resolve some of the disputes and some of the problems that we have between our two countries.

I listened with interest to the comments the minister has made with respect to the fact that we are totally and completely subjected to American laws, and yet he fails to mention that the Americans are also subjected to the same Canadian laws; those are in place as well. All we ask on this side of the chamber is that the minister

be fair, honest and truthful with this issue and give us the facts.

1400

CONFLICT-OF-INTEREST GUIDELINES

Mr. Eves: In responding to the statement made today by the Attorney General (Mr. Scott), we are operating here on the basis of proposed legislation. I think the members of this assembly are entitled to a little bit more respect than that under a democratic system, with all due respect.

We would like to know when Mr. Aird was appointed commissioner, for one, and why the Legislature was not informed, why we are being told about this after the fact. Why is the interim commissioner reporting to the government and not directly to the Legislature or the Speaker? Why is the responsibility being taken away from the Premier (Mr. Peterson) to look after conflict and given to a commissioner? Surely the responsibility of the Premier is to ensure the honesty and integrity of the members of the executive council.

The Premier's statement in Windsor on September 18 stated that he personally plans to review the statements filed by every member of the executive council. We will presume on this side of the House that this has been done, and done to his satisfaction, already.

I think this proposal is the height of arrogance. This is not a dictatorship. It happens to be a democracy. There are funny things in here, I tell the Attorney General, called first, second and third readings of bills, debate and sending legislation out to committee, in which it may, to his surprise, even be strengthened and improved upon.

The onus on cabinet ministers and parliamentary assistants under this proposed legislation is much less than it was even under the Davis guidelines. It would have been much more prudent of his government at least to use the somewhat watered-down Peterson guidelines, which would have required filing of statements within 30 days instead of going about it in this backhanded fashion.

CRIME PREVENTION WEEK

Mr. Cureatz: I would like to respond to the statement to the Legislature by the Solicitor General (Mrs. Smith) and congratulate the minister on again bringing to our attention Crime Prevention Week. It is important that all of us in our capacity of members of the provincial parliament encourage people across the province of Ontario to work in conjunction with our police

forces, be they municipal, the Ontario Provincial Police or the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Of course, I have to refresh the memory of the minister that it was a long range of previous Conservative administrations that fostered this kind of encouragement in terms of Crime Prevention Week, and time and time again—to the honourable House leader—I have heard from that front bench, while pointing to us: “Those nasty Conservatives. What did you do in office?” I think it would have been only fair to have included that the Conservatives—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member’s time has expired. That completes ministerial statements and responses.

ORAL QUESTIONS

TRADE WITH UNITED STATES

Mr. B. Rae: I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology. I have a picture of a Liberal advertisement which appeared in the Windsor Star on August 29, 1987. It says:

“We will. Free trade. ‘There can be no deal unless it’s the right deal and Premier Peterson’s six conditions are met:

“1. If our auto pact is gutted—No Deal.

“2. If our family farms and agricultural industries are threatened—No Deal.

“3. If our cultural identity is weakened—No Deal.

“4. Unless we can support regional development—No Deal.

“5. If we cannot screen foreign investment—No Deal.

“6. Without an ironclad dispute settlement mechanism—No Deal.”

Is it still the position of the government of Ontario that there can be no deal?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: The Leader of the Opposition raises an interesting point. I should tell him that if he had had the opportunity to examine the document and was not so concerned with pushing his particular ideological point, he would know that going into the discussions, in the preliminary round of discussions, the impression was left to the Premiers that they would have a right to OK the deal, and at that point the Premiers said, “If it is not the right deal, there is no deal.”

I can tell the member that I was in Ottawa with the Premier (Mr. Peterson) when we were briefed on the documents, and at that point the Prime Minister said that 95 to 98 per cent of the elements in the deal are not in provincial jurisdiction.

I should also tell the member that the American trade negotiator, Ambassador Clayton Yeutter, who was addressing the Empire Club, said publicly that if the provinces did not ratify this deal, there would be no deal. The media immediately asked the Premier, “What is your response to that?” and he said, “The deal is dead.” So what we have is a situation where we are investigating what legal access we have to preventing this deal to stop it.

It is very easy for someone in opposition, albeit a reduced opposition, to get up and say what should be done. It is another thing to act responsibly, and this government—

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Scott: Take another try.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. B. Rae: It is curious. The Attorney General says, “Take another try.” He should not worry. We will be back, and if we on this side are being attacked because our position has not changed and because we have some integrity, then it is a curious position for the government that those people who have maintained their position are somehow being criticized.

Mr. Speaker: Supplementary question?

Mr. B. Rae: I would like to ask the minister, if he can tell us: Has the auto pact always been a question of federal jurisdiction or has it at some time been a question of provincial jurisdiction?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: The Leader of the Opposition will know that the auto pact was negotiated by the federal government, notwithstanding Ontario is the chief beneficiary of the auto pact—everyone acknowledges that—and we are severely impacted by anything that in any way detracts from that.

I can tell him my position is that we were promised a Cadillac, when we got the bill it was for a Rolls Royce and they delivered a Chevette.

We are totally opposed to what they have done with the auto pact and we have made that statement. We feel they have gutted it, and we have voiced our opposition and are continuing to voice our opposition.

Mr. B. Rae: With great respect, if it is a Chevette, it is the Chevette the minister has been driving in for the last two and a half years. He did not say boo for two and a half years when Simon Reisman and everybody else said publicly that if the Americans wanted to put it on the table, there was not very much that could be done about it.

I would like to specifically ask the minister: With respect to the auto pact, the Premier has been quoted as saying in the Toronto Star—and

these are not summations of what he said, this is a direct quote—"There is no way I would allow the situation to develop that would change the auto pact to the detriment of the province of Ontario." Asked if he would exercise the power of veto if the auto pact were threatened, he told reporters, "The answer is very clearly yes."

The government went to the people because it wanted to be able to stand up for them. That is why they spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on these ads. What I am asking them now is, they have their mandate, they have their 95-member Red Army chorus; when are they going to put it to use on behalf of the people of Ontario and stop the free trade deal, as they spent two and a half years saying they would?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: This government has taken the position that, notwithstanding we represent Ontario, one third of the population of this country lives in Ontario, so we are not only Ontarians but we are also Canadians. As a result of that, if it is a bad deal for Ontario, by extension it is a bad deal for Canada.

Notwithstanding all of that, it is easy for the Leader of the Opposition to stand up and say, "Veto it." I can tell him that if there was a provision for us to veto it, we would exercise it.

We are now examining what recourse we have to this agreement to see what our legal position is.

Mr. B. Rae: Let me go back to the minister, then. Is he stating categorically here today, on behalf of the government of Ontario, that the government will not implement any aspect of the deal? Is that what he is saying on behalf of the government of Ontario; that there is not a single order in council or piece of legislation that Ontario is going to pass? Is that what he is saying?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: No, I am not saying that. I understand what the Leader of the Opposition is alluding to, but members should know there are other considerations. When we deal with beverage alcohol, we have an impending section 301 action by the United States, we have a General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade decision of the GATT panel due down within the next couple of weeks, and we are assessing what our avenues of recourse are.

1410

Mr. B. Rae: I have never in my life heard such a two-faced attitude on the part of the government. Let me quote an exchange and ask the minister to comment on it.

"During the election campaign, the Premier was standing in the shade and sipping grape juice. He made a sort of free trade deal of his own with Brian Nash, head of the Ontario Grape Growers' Marketing Board. After listening to Mr. Nash plead, 'Do not sell us out on free trade,' Mr. Peterson promised he would not. 'OK. We will shake hands on that one,' said Mr. Nash, offering his hand."

Just what is the Premier's hand worth if the minister is not even able to get up on his feet and say that in one area where the province has jurisdiction—where the government had said for two and a half years that it would not implement, that it would not do it, that it would not bring it into effect—just what is it worth if the minister is not prepared, once the deal has come down, to say that the Premier's handshake is worth something? That is what they have reduced themselves to: the Premier's handshake is worth nothing in this regard, nothing at all.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: The leader of the third party will certainly know the precarious position the wine and grape industry in Ontario has been in. He will also know that this government and previous governments before us have supported that industry.

Mr. Pouliot: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: The reference by the minister, with respect, was to the leader of the third party. They do not have one, but they will soon have one.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: I apologize. Habits are very difficult to break. He looked so comfortable in the position of leader of the third party, but I do offer my apologies and I congratulate him on assuming his new post. Two of the losers flipped a coin and he won it, notwithstanding his bravado on election night on his great victory.

Having said that, I should tell members there are many implications affecting the beverage alcohol business. We have a spirit industry that sells \$400 million worth of whisky into the United States and that is very concerned about our responsibility in dealing with that market. We are looking at all of the alternatives that are available to us. We will respond in a timely, responsible way when it is appropriate.

Mr. B. Rae: I would rather win 19 seats honestly than win 95 seats on the basis of a fraud, which is exactly what those people have done.

On Thursday, August 13, 1987, in the election campaign, the St. Catharines Standard said, "Premier David Peterson commiserated with the plight of Niagara fruit growers yesterday"—I am quoting directly from the newspaper—"and prom-

ised to protect them from any adverse effects of a free trade agreement with the United States."

Quite simply, is that still the position of the government of Ontario, and precisely what is it going to do on behalf of those particular workers in this province? What is it going to do?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: I cannot give an exact answer on what we are going to do because we have to wait to see how this plays out, but I will tell the member it has always been the position of this government that we will act responsibly and that if there has to be some adjustment as a result of what happens—

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: I am saying we are still committed to protecting those industries and those people who are going to be impacted by this agreement. I am talking about a worst-case scenario. In a worst-case scenario, this government will fulfil its responsibility to the people of Ontario.

Mr. Brandt: I have a question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology with respect to the document he tabled today, providing us with an opinion on the dispute settlement mechanism. I would like to ask the minister his opinion with respect to his statement and the legal opinion that he has received today.

Will he provide us with his views as to whether he believes even a flawed dispute settlement mechanism, as commented on by his lawyers in connection with what has been proposed in the current document, is better than no mechanism at all, as we have at the present time? I will make it very clear. Which does he believe is better: what he considers to be a flawed mechanism or no mechanism?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: With all due respect to the leader of the third party, we do have a mechanism. What we have is actually better than what we got. Under the present system, as I am sure the member knows, there is a process whereby there is an administrative action by the Court of International Trade and by the Department of Commerce.

The only thing that we got in this agreement is that, instead of referring it to the international court in New York for judicial review and appeal, which we can do now, it is going to this binational commission, which is made up of two Americans, two Canadians and a chairman to be appointed by either one.

What we have now, and one of the drawbacks, is only the length of time it takes to get through that process. But nobody was complaining about

the process. What they were complaining about was the application of the administrative pressures at the lower level.

The reason that the old system is even better than the new one is that, if the member will see the document, we are precluded as a province and general members of the public are precluded as individuals from appearing before this tribunal, whereas now they can go to the court. That is a serious flaw. So all we have done is given up the appeal court in New York to a binational committee. Nothing else has changed.

I should tell the member that not only did we get a legal opinion from Blake, Cassels and Graydon but also we got a legal opinion from an American law firm, a highly respected law firm which is expert in trade law and which confirmed exactly the same thing. Before my hearings, Mark McConnell, the lawyer from Washington, said: "You got nothing. As a practising lawyer in Washington I would not proceed with the case any differently than I am now, other than that, if it were appealed, it would go to this national tribunal."

Mr. Brandt: The minister knows full well that the mechanism that is in place at the present time is totally unacceptable to those who have gone through the process. I can think of individual cases where, on the east coast as an example, the fisheries industry went through a cost of something like \$1.6 million to resolve a dispute which took many years to resolve.

Let me offer the minister a second legal opinion, if I can, from the firm of Hogan and Hartson in Washington, with respect to the dispute settlement mechanism that his lawyers indicate is flawed. I quote, and I will provide this document to the minister if he would like and I will give him two minutes' advance warning as he gave us:

"By application of this agreement, future changes in US law shall not apply to Canada unless the legislation specifically states that they so apply and the United States must offer Canada a right of prior consultation before such legislation is enacted.

"Further, the panel should operate more quickly and efficiently than US courts"—and out of quote for a moment; what the minister was referring to—"if outstanding legal issues are satisfactorily resolved.

"By reaching final judgement within a year the panel could improve significantly on the time commonly taken by the US Court of International Trade to reach judgement."

I ask the minister again, does he have any comment whatsoever with respect to the proposed dispute settlement mechanism as being an improvement over what we have in place at the moment?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: With all due respect to the leader of the third party, his statement is absurd. He has just quoted from a document that we paid for and the one I referred to. If he understood what they were saying, they were saying—

Mr. Brandt: I just read it to you.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: Yes, but the member read it out of context. What it says is that if the United States is going to bring forward any kind of trade law that is going to impact on Canada, which is entirely separate from the dispute settlement mechanism, if it is going to bring that forward, it must name Canada in the law, otherwise it does not apply. It is a totally separate issue.

The other point that was made, and that was the one thing that I—

Mr. Brandt: It is not separate if we are included.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: No, but what I am saying is that they are saying we would not be included in any future laws unless we were specifically named. That does not get us any kind of relief on the previous laws.

The other thing the member should know, and I conceded this, is that the only benefit through the new process is that it will speed it up. It probably takes two years to go through the international court in New York, and under this binational commission it may take a year or less. That is a benefit, no question. That is all we got, but that was not the issue.

1420

Mr. Sterling: In this very craftily worded opinion by Blake, Cassels and Graydon they say, and the minister reiterated in his statement, that there is no binding decision of the binational panel.

Does the minister agree that that is the case with regard to countervail cases or any of the other kinds of individual cases, because that is not what he is doing, and he is misleading in terms of the conclusion which the minister has drawn from this. If there is a binding decision, does that not give manufacturers in Canada an avenue which they have never had before with regard to American trade law?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: The member's assumption is not correct. What it means is that the binational panel will do exactly what the

international court in New York does, and that is review as to whether American law had been applied. It comes down with a decision, and when it comes down with a decision, either for or against the plaintiff, you have a situation where, if the offending country does nothing about it, the plaintiff has two recourses. One is retaliation, which is absurd when you look at Canada versus the United States; the other is to abrogate the deal, which again is absurd and means we have no leverage at all.

RENTAL ACCOMMODATION

Mr. Brandt: I have a question for the Minister of Housing. Yesterday, in response to a question raised by the member for Markham (Mr. Cousens), the minister indicated that her ministry would be constructing 102,000 housing units, I believe she said by the year 1990. The campaign literature was referred to earlier as it related to free trade; there was other campaign literature that referred to housing starts and it indicated the year 1989, in terms of the 102,000 units. I will not quibble about the year. I will take 1990 and give the minister a year.

Would the minister confirm for us today in the House what number of units she proposes to construct in the years 1988, 1989 and 1990, the three-year time frame for the 102,000 units?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: As the member knows, there will be an emergency debate on the topic of housing in the House a little bit after question period, but the answer I can give now is that our numbers are not divided year by year. There is a global projection over the three years.

Mr. Brandt: The minister was very precise in her comments yesterday that 102,000 units would in fact be built by 1990. Surely she should know some time schedule. One needs equipment, land, contractors—

An hon. member: Bricks.

Mr. Brandt: —and bricks, as my friend suggests—all of these things.

Has the ministry made any kind of projections relative to time frames for the construction of the number of units that she has proposed and reiterated in this House are going to occur over the next three years?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: The ministry has lists of the various programs under which housing will be both constructed and converted. It includes expanding rent-geared-to-income assistance to nonprofit housing, building additional nonprofit housing units, convert-to-rent, intensification initiatives, home sharing program, building

under the support of community living demonstration projects, the Ontario home renewal program, the low-rise rehabilitation program, the home renewal program for disabled persons, and support of community living. Each of those has a three-year global time frame.

Mr. Brandt: That long litany of programs is very interesting, but I want to tell the minister what that long litany of programs has done in the past. It is interesting to note that her predecessor in office released a document to this House some time ago in which he indicated that from the years 1980 to 1985, the maximum number of units constructed in any one year was 15,574. Those are her ministry's figures.

What the minister is suggesting is that, through some miraculous turnaround, through some new process that the ministry has never been able to work yet, the fact of the matter is that if the units were averaged equally on about a three-year basis, she is looking to more than double the number of units she is going to bring into the marketplace, double the previous year's high for any period that I can recall.

How does she intend to accomplish this miraculous turnaround? Please do not read the long list of programs, because they have not worked in the past; I would fully anticipate that they are not going to work in the future.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: The Ministry of Housing has listed the various programs under which housing will be both built and converted. I have given the member the numbers as global figures over the next three years and my commitment that those housing units will be both built and converted.

WASTE DISPOSAL

Mrs. Grier: I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. As a member of this House from Metropolitan Toronto, I have always deplored the reluctance of Metropolitan council to implement a meaningful recycling program. I therefore regret that this reluctance has once again brought Metropolitan Toronto to the point of saying that it has a crisis in garbage on its hands and therefore asking the minister to shortcut the environmental approval process.

I would like the minister to give this House a categorical assurance that no additional landfill will be approved in the region of Durham or anywhere else in this province without a complete environmental assessment that would allow all the various alternatives to be examined and to be exposed.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: That is a very precise question. It deserves a very precise answer.

First of all, yesterday I did not get a chance to congratulate the member on being appointed as the deputy whip as well as the Environment critic. The only reason I say that is that it gives the individual an opportunity to be in a better position to ask questions. I remember when I was on that side of the House.

Specifically to the question my friend the member for Etobicoke-Lakeshore has asked, she would know, as I do, only through news media reports that a request was being formulated by the council of Metropolitan Toronto and was being sent to me. It would ask that consideration of the Brock landfill site, which I understand from news media reports would be for a period of five years, be sent to me. They would like to go under the Environmental Protection Act provision as opposed to the Environmental Assessment Act provision.

The member would know that as Minister of the Environment—and I think she shares this with me—one is extremely reluctant to give consideration to anything other than the normal process that one would require for a proposal of this kind.

There are a number of proposals that come to me for extensions of sites, for instance, interim uses of specific sites and so on. I do want to say to the member that I feel I must at least receive any representations which are made by Metropolitan Toronto and by the people who would be opposed to such a proposal and then make a decision. I do want to indicate to her that I do not like shortcuts, as she does not like shortcuts.

1430

Mrs. Grier: May I thank the minister for his compliments and point out that I was not appointed deputy whip; I was elected to this office. I say to him that in future I would much prefer to exchange his compliments for some answers and some action, because that is what we are here in this House to get.

The minister was quoted last week as saying that he would consider forcing municipalities to recycle if they did not move towards doing it themselves. As he is not prepared to give me categorical assurance about the process if he is requested to shortcut the environmental assessment that he would approve, can he at least tell us whether he meant what he was quoted as saying and how quickly he is prepared to move to make sure that the biggest municipality in Ontario quickly gets on with recycling and reducing its garbage, rather than spreading it around into other municipalities?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: In answer to the two-part question that the member has presented, the answer to the first part about whether one would not give consideration to any representations which were made, which would be asking to go under something other than the normal process, I think she would agree with me that if I were to say I would give no consideration to that at all, then people on the other side of the House would say now that we have 95 seats, we are arrogant and we will not listen to anyone. So the member should know that we have at least to listen when those representations are made, but it does not mean we have to accept them.

In answer to the second portion of the question, which I think is equally important, I am very pleased to know of the support of the member for Etobicoke-Lakeshore for my initiatives to get recycling moving in Ontario. From the reports of the recycling conference held in Hamilton, which I addressed, she would know that recycling is taking off in Ontario and all kinds of municipalities are involved.

I indicated at that time—this is what the member asked—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

CONFLICT-OF-INTEREST GUIDELINES

Mr. Eves: In the absence of the Premier (Mr. Peterson) this afternoon, I have a question of the Deputy Premier.

I presume that the intent of his government's proposed conflict-of-interest legislation is to strengthen the conflict-of-interest requirements of members of the executive council. Is that correct?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: We think the legislation which has now been presented is good. It is far better than guidelines which were used in the past. If enacted, this is a law which will require the members of the executive council, the parliamentary assistants and others to comply. I think he will be aware that the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) in his statement to the House today has indicated that, in the terms of the bill which is before the House and which we hope will become law, all members of the executive council are in compliance.

Mr. Eves: I presume that there is not one single member of the executive council, including the Premier himself, who would have had to divest himself of any interest in companies doing business with the government had the Bill Davis guidelines been in place. Can the Deputy Premier undertake to this House here today and to the people of Ontario that is indeed the case? There is

not one single member sitting in that cabinet over there who has any business interests that he would have had to disclose under the Bill Davis guidelines. If not, why not? Can he give us a list and can he file it at the next sitting of the House?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I think the honourable member will know that the interim commissioner is in possession of all of the reports and will table them with the Clerk of the House in the appropriate time. Then the honourable member and all members of the community will be able to examine those at their convenience and make their own judgements.

TRADE WITH UNITED STATES

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology. It also has to do with the free trade pact and, in particular, the auto industry.

Is the minister aware of a statement the Premier made in Windsor on August 11, in which he said industrial centres such as Windsor could be reduced to no-industry ghost towns if the US succeeds in removing tariff protection for the Canadian auto and auto parts industry with the free trade negotiations. I would like to ask the minister if he still believes that and if he believes there should be no deal, as was promised by the Premier at that time, if it guts the auto pact.

How did the Premier make that promise and how did he plan on implementing that promise on August 11, 1987, if he now feels he cannot implement it? What has changed?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: The member has asked a multifaceted question. As to the first part of it, we are very concerned that if the safeguards are not backed up with tariff protection, there is really no incentive for the Big Three to maintain production in Ontario. They could move it south. We do agree and we have said that we think, with the removal of the tariffs, the safeguards are meaningless and they have effectively gutted the auto pact. We also said during the campaign, and we say it now, we would not support any agreement that does that.

To answer the member's question, it is the same answer I gave him before. We will examine whatever recourse we have under the law to stop this deal.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Then what the minister is saying to us is that although there was a promise made in the election campaign, the Liberal Party had no idea how it was going to implement it, it had no legal opinion that would allow it to make that promise, and basically these ads that were taken out in the newspapers and the speeches that

were given can only be described as misleading advertising in Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: The member is wrong. What happened, and I am sure if he followed the negotiations he will know, is that there are many items that were perceived to be on the bargaining table and many items that were perceived to be off the bargaining table. At that time, the Premier was under the impression that the items that were on the bargaining table were in provincial jurisdiction and he would have the right to veto it.

When we were exposed to the final document on October 4, we found out that 95 to 98 per cent of the items in the agreement are under federal jurisdiction. We are now examining our options.

WASTE DISPOSAL

Mrs. Marland: My question is to the Minister of the Environment. I listened very carefully to the minister's reply to the member for Etobicoke-Lakeshore (Mrs. Grier), but I do not feel any more assured now than I did before he gave that reply. I share the very same concern the member for Etobicoke-Lakeshore raised.

I remind the minister that while he says he will listen very carefully, he obviously has listened very carefully in the past to similar requests, because in the past he has granted in excess of some 60 exemptions to the Environmental Assessment Act.

Reminding the minister that the Brock South site is adjacent to one of Ontario's major fresh-water watersheds, namely, Duffin's Creek, and that the contamination would impact on this entire region of the province, I ask the minister if he cannot give his full assurance now as to what his position will be vis-à-vis the requirement for the full Environmental Assessment Act rather than the environmental protection procedure, then can he at least agree that in view of the fact that Metro has secure dump sites for at least another 12 years, until the end of the century, an application for exemption on the basis of a so-called emergency—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: In answer to the question of the Progressive Conservative critic, the real problem is that when municipalities make requests, I am in a position of at least having to entertain those requests. As I say, it is difficult, even when my own instincts may be in a different direction when many requests are made to me, not at least to give consideration to those requests.

I have not actually received that request on my desk in writing yet, but I did say I would at least

give consideration to it, as I would most certainly want to give to the individuals who have strongly expressed their opposition at any time to the site that is proposed by Metropolitan Toronto.

I want a process in place, naturally, where there is a full public hearing, where people can air their views, not simply on a specific site but their views in a general sense as to the problems confronted by Metropolitan Toronto.

We want to examine all aspects of it. I want to assure the member that I will also want to determine just what kind of emergency is out there, because one cannot simply say, when a municipality comes to the minister, that it automatically is a situation where there is an emergency. I will certainly give all of those factors consideration, because I share the member's concern that something not simply be bulldozed through.

Mrs. Marland: I suggest that 12 years left in available space for garbage is not an emergency.

Perhaps the minister would consider addressing the fact that the time factor for the approval process for new sites is tied directly into the new requirements. There are new engineering requirements for these sites, and this has added to the extended time to develop a new site. Will the minister consider assisting municipalities that now face five to 10 times more cost in this area with money that would then expedite the whole process for the approval?

1440

Hon. Mr. Bradley: If money could indeed expedite the whole process of approval, that would be a very attractive proposal, but money alone cannot do that. The member will be aware that I announced in June of this year that there would be additional funding available to municipalities to assist them with their waste management obligations in a number of different categories.

I am hearing two different stories here. I am hearing, on the one hand, a genuine concern about the circumvention of any regular process. On the other hand, I am hearing a cry that says, "The process takes too long and the reason it takes too long is it is too costly." The reason it takes too long, I may say to the member, is that they have to go through all the appropriate steps to get all the appropriate approvals so that we do not encounter many of the problems that existed in the past when things were expedited.

The member may recall in the past when it was easy to get a dump site, when it did not take a lengthy period of time and when there was not the kind of analysis there is today. As a result, we

have a lot of remedial work to do in this province. I want to ensure through this process that it is necessary they go through all these—

Mr. Speaker: Order. New question, the member for Rainy River.

DIOXIN IN KRAFT PULP

Mr. Hampton: My question is for the Minister of the Environment. Recent studies by Greenpeace indicate that the toxic compound dioxin is a byproduct of the chlorine bleaching process used in almost all Ontario kraft pulp mills. Tests conducted by his ministry and by American environmental authorities have found high levels of dioxin in the pulp mill sludge pond in Fort Frances and in fish taken below the mill from the Rainy River. Dioxins are believed to cause defects in humans and to destroy the immune system's capacity to fight disease.

In view of the serious issues raised by the Greenpeace report, can the minister indicate what steps are being taken by his ministry to deal with dioxin contaminants that are a byproduct of the chlorine pulp bleaching process?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: The member will recall that our Ministry of the Environment released a report in July of last year that dealt with this particular issue. Our studies, I think, corresponded to the American studies, which specifically were done in Maine and which first detected the potential in these mills for the possibility of dioxin. We released the results of those studies to the public. We have some ongoing studies to try to pinpoint the source more precisely.

What is more important, and I think the member would agree with me, is that one of the promising aspects of this is that it appears there is a potential for process changes going a long way to eliminate the source of dioxin. The member will know that at present in Ontario in the bleaching process it is chlorine bleaching that takes place. The byproduct of that is dioxin; the companies would say in minute quantities and we would say that any quantity is too much.

I have what I would call an expert committee, and I think the member is familiar with it, that has travelled essentially to Sweden, Finland, the United States and other jurisdictions to evaluate the whole aspect of contamination that can result from these mills. I hope to have a report from them soon. I think the member will know, and this is what Greenpeace would agree with, that the potential for oxygen bleaching is one that has to be looked at seriously for eliminating the problem even being produced, let alone the need

for catching it after it is produced. It is better to change the process.

Mr. Hampton: I can appreciate that the minister is aware of alternative technologies. The minister is probably aware that these technologies have now been used in Sweden for the last five years and have in fact reduced the levels of chlorine and dioxin contaminants substantially. What I would like to know from the minister is, in view of the fact that these processes are already in place in Sweden, when are we going to see a move by his ministry, either by way of regulation or by some other means, to require the pulp industry in Canada and specifically in northwestern Ontario to move to the superior technology which is already proven?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: This expert committee not only looked at Finland and Sweden, both of which had converted largely to that process in those specific mills, but also looked at catchment systems in the United States and in other jurisdictions to determine whether the waste recovery system was beneficial in this regard.

I expect the report quite soon, I think early in the new year, which is a couple of months from now. That report, which I think is going to be extremely detailed, will deal with more than that specific problem, even though I think the member and I would agree that is an important problem in itself. When I have that report in my hands, I am prepared to see an implementation of the best system possible to eliminate those side-effects, even though there were no dioxins found present in the testing of the drinking water downstream. The very fact that we would find any dioxin in the sludge, as we have over a period of time now in various jurisdictions, should prompt that kind of action.

The member and I will be seeing that report soon, and from that report should flow the kind of action that will alleviate the problem. The municipal-industrial strategy for abatement program will also address that.

STUDENT HOUSING

Mr. Cousens: I have a question for the Minister of Colleges and Universities. I would like to congratulate her not only on her election but on her appointment to cabinet.

Dealing with the question of student housing, on September 2, during the recent election campaign, the Premier pledged \$5 million for the construction of 5,000 new residence beds for university students. Yet Tuesday's speech from the throne, unbelievably, did not mention this proposal.

Will the minister today formally reaffirm the Premier's campaign commitment and inform this House when and how she intends to carry out this promise?

Hon. Mrs. McLeod: The honourable member is quite correct. The announcement of funding support to universities in providing and building new residence beds for university students was indeed an election promise and it does stand as a commitment of this government. I trust that we are able to proceed with it at the earliest opportunity.

Mr. Cousens: That is a better answer than I got yesterday from the Minister of Housing (Ms. Hošek).

Hon. Mr. Scott: It is a better question too.

Mr. Cousens: A better question? Well, by the third day it will get even better.

I would like to know specifically when the minister is going to make the announcement to facilitate students who are already in a position that they cannot find housing in Metro Toronto or in Kitchener-Waterloo—right across this province there is a dearth of good housing for students. If they are going to have housing for when they need it next September, that plan should be announced today or tomorrow or within the next few days. It should have been mentioned in the speech from the throne. The minister should be getting started. She should be able to tell us now how, specifically, she is going to address this and when she is going to get started on it. Please be more definite.

Hon. Mrs. McLeod: I am not prepared to make a statement about the specific timing of implementing this announcement. I think we all recognize that good management requires the careful planning that this government is currently involved in.

What I would like to assure the member is that I will continue, as will my ministry, to make the concerns of student housing a very high priority. I have already met with student groups on a number of occasions. They have certainly indicated to me their concern for the availability of student housing.

I would like to underscore this government's record in dealing with the concerns of post-secondary education as a priority, and perhaps particularly concerns expressed by student groups. I point only to two examples: the increase in student assistance and much greater access to university places. We will continue to deal with this concern of student housing with the same sense of priority and concern.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. A point of order?

Mr. Cousens: I need an answer to the question. I do not know when we are going to have any housing for students.

1450

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Mr. Allen: In the absence of the Premier, I would like to direct a question to the Deputy Premier. On Monday last, November 2, the Premier and the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) were tried in absentia at a court of the poor at Osgoode Hall. They were convicted not only of neglecting but also of perpetuating the problems and the plight of the poor in Ontario.

Would the Deputy Premier not agree that the throne speech, with its absence of any sense of urgency around the problems of the poor and the poverty-stricken in Ontario, with its complete lack of any co-ordinated program or focus in this direction, let alone any overall objectives established in the attack on this issue, clearly confirms the correctness of the verdict issued by the court of the poor that he and his government, in point of fact, are neglecting and even perpetuating the problems of the poor in Ontario?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I can only say that anyone who would accuse the present Minister of Community and Social Services of being inadequate and not having initiative simply does not know what he is talking about. In my view, there has been no time in my 25 years in the House when I have known a minister with these responsibilities who has responded more actively and effectively than the honourable gentleman referred to in the question from the member.

Mr. Allen: I am not surprised to hear the Treasurer defend the moral integrity of the minister in question. None of us has any question in that regard. But when one looks at objective performance, perhaps there is another question that has to be asked.

Is the Deputy Premier, when he rejects the verdict, for example, ignoring the simple fact that his government is postponing in its throne speech the report of the Social Assistance Review Committee until next spring, when it ought to be published this winter when it is completed?

Second, the government has refused to comply with Mr. Thomson's earnest request that the situation is so serious that social assistance rates ought to have been increased as of last spring.

Finally, why is the government now signalling the fact that there might well be constraints and cutbacks in this area, as in other areas, of social spending?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: To set the honourable member's fevered mind at rest, there will be no cutbacks. But he would surely also be aware that since the honourable member became minister in this extremely sensitive and important portfolio, there have been a succession of improvements—I would be the first, as Treasurer, to say insufficient but substantial improvements—not only in the rate of payment but also in some more appropriate approaches to solving the problems that the less fortunate people in the community are responding to.

I can tell him, for example, that money for warm coats for kids going to school in the wintertime is paid on a regular basis.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: It took two years to do that.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: All right. It is paid every year for these children. It is not an insensitive approach whatsoever. Once again, as Treasurer I wish it could be more, but it is better than it ever has been and it continues to improve.

RENT REGULATION

Mr. Jackson: I have a question for the Minister of Housing. My question has to do with the Rent Regulation Act, the new Bill 51. If she recalls, I asked her predecessor when I found out that the ministry was tabulating the size of rent increases tenants were experiencing across Ontario as a result of Bill 51. In fact, we discovered that it was documenting all those over 10 per cent. The minister failed to be forthcoming in this House and to the public with the specifics of that documentation.

I have with me in the House today a confidential document from the ministry that sets out the statistics for Metro Toronto, which I would like to share with the House. It indicates that there are 2,000 whole-building applications outstanding for the city of Toronto, of which almost 900 buildings, approximately 44 per cent of all applications, have increases and requests in excess of 25 per cent. We could be talking 60,000 tenants here, about 10 per cent of the entire city's population.

Mr. Speaker: The question is?

Mr. Jackson: My question for the minister is: With 23,000 applications pending, being held up in her ministry, after 11 months, when can she assure the tenants of Ontario that she will be able

to release and issue orders under this bill? When will she commit to announcing the orders under the legislation?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: Rental orders are being issued right now. I am committed to removing the backlog and assuring certainty for tenants and the public, but I should tell the honourable member and remind the House that one of the reasons for the backlog is that apartment housing that was built after 1975 is now protected under rent review as a result of Bill 51. It was not protected before that.

Mr. Jackson: The fact is, the government used rebates as an election ploy, but it has not announced a single whole-building review. If the government is having difficulty with the large picture, let us talk about Archie and Mary Dodd, a family about whom I raised a question here in this Legislature last May, a family in the riding of Oakville South, an 82-year-old pensioner's family. This family was served notice with a 33 per cent increase. The Dodd family is committing 50 per cent of its income to its current rent. Under the bill—and they were served notice—it has risen to 67 per cent. They now today have received their second annual notice. They are now into the second year of a notice under this government's legislation. They owe retroactively to their landlord \$2,000 in back rent as a result of the application that has been outstanding.

Mr. Speaker: The question is?

Mr. Jackson: With families, specifically seniors, committing 70 per cent and more of their incomes for accommodation, when will the minister assure those individual families that she will be issuing the backlog of orders, when her own ministry is indicating it may take until next August to clear up the backlog?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: It is of course very difficult for people such as the ones the member is describing to deal with having to pay so much of their income on rent. That is a problem that other people share and which we are very concerned about. I recognize the backlog is a very serious issue. I am determined to resolve it. At this time we are actually working on increased staffing, more effective processing of applications, a use of superior technology for shorter processing and increasing our production of orders issued.

STEEL INDUSTRY

Mr. Wildman: I have another question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology with regard to the proposed free trade sellout by the federal government. Could the minister com-

ment on the remarks of Roger Phillips, the president of IPSCO, who as the minister will know was a strong advocate of a free trade agreement between the United States and Canada until he saw the draft wording, and who stated—without expensive legal opinion, I dare say—that the agreement was wanting because of the lack of an adequate dispute settlement mechanism.

I would like to ask the minister particularly with regard to Mr. Phillips's remarks about antidumping legislation. Does he agree with Mr. Phillips's view that the current agreement proposed will in fact mean that antidumping measures by the United States not only will not be eliminated but will be more often used against Canadian steel producers?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: I have a little difficulty with the question. The member says something about its being eliminated. What is happening with the steel producers—and I am sure the member knows—is that they operate under a gentlemen's agreement whereby the steel producers export into the United States to the level of 3.5 per cent. The objection that the steel producers have is that they do not expect to get any more than that, but they feel that, without this agreement, that will be reduced. That is a decision they have to make. That was one of my concerns about it, in that they got nothing except the status quo.

Mr. Wildman: The minister will know that Mr. Phillips is odd man out among steel producers. He does not agree with the position taken, and expressed by the minister just now, by most of the other steel producers. He actually argues that, because of American legislation still applying to Canada and to Canadian producers, instead of somewhat reducing antidumping action, in fact Canadian producers will not be able to compete on an equal footing with US rivals and will be subject to more antidumping actions by their US competitors. Does the minister agree with that position or with the position put forward by the other steel producers?

1500

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: I really have to take the association at its word. I am sure the member knows that most steel producers in the world are under what is known as a voluntary restraint action by the United States which actually stipulates what they can ship into that market. The Canadian manufacturers are at 3.5 per cent; during the strike they went up to seven per cent and they are happy with that arrangement.

I am not happy. If we are talking free trade then surely they should have virtually unlimited access to that market. Unfortunately the industry, when it appeared before my committee, said: "We do not have the capacity to penetrate that market more than 3.5 per cent, and we have no desire to do it. We are happy with our 3.5 per cent and all we really want to do is make sure we continue to have that." That is their position; it is not mine.

GRAIN PRODUCERS

Mr. Villeneuve: I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture and Food. The minister must have surely been disappointed in the recent speech from the throne. Out of 28 pages, agriculture got one measly little sentence. It is a shame. The minister's own ministry has stated that grain producers will suffer a 12 per cent decrease in income this year. What innovative things will he be doing to try to correct this?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: Before I respond to the question, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry for his appointment as critic to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, without question the most important ministry in this government. When we stop to think about it, if it was not for the agriculture and food industry, all other government programs would be irrelevant; so we can be proud that we are connected with the agriculture and food industry.

I have been proud, as the Minister of Agriculture and Food over the last two years, because we took a Tory agricultural budget of \$328 million and we stepped it up to \$563 million, a 72 per cent increase. We have introduced more than 60 programs since we formed the government over two years ago. Many of those programs are long-term programs. The honourable member would be less than honest if he stood in this House and said that he did not hear comments from the farmers in his riding that we have introduced some of the most effective programs the farmers have seen in years.

Mr. Villeneuve: It is about the umpteenth time we have heard the minister make that statement. We are getting tired. Grain producers are receiving a 12 per cent reduction in their gross income this year and they had an even greater reduction last year. What is the minister going to do for them?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: The grain producers are eligible for the many programs we have in effect, the interest rate reduction programs. There will also be a deficiency payment this year from the

government. I have to tell the member that we have worked very closely with the federal government to make sure that we get our fair share of that deficiency payment, much of which will go to the grain farmers of this province.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION ACT LOI SUR L'ARBITRAGE COMMERCIAL INTERNATIONAL

Hon. Mr. Scott moved first reading of Bill 7, An Act to implement the Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration adopted by the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law.

L'hon. M. Scott propose la première lecture du projet de loi 7, Loi portant mise en application de la Loi type sur l'arbitrage commercial international adoptée par la Commission des Nations Unies pour le droit commercial international.

Motion agreed to.

La motion est adoptée.

Hon. Mr. Scott: As honourable members will perhaps recognize, this is a bill that remains left over from the last session and is an act to introduce a model law.

REPRESENTATION AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Villeneuve moved first reading of Bill 8, An Act to amend the Representation Act, 1986.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Villeneuve: Just as a brief explanation, the great riding of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, which I attempt to represent well, has been expanded to include portions of the county of Grenville. Because of that fact, Grenville is not recognized as part of this great riding, and therefore I suggest that the name be abbreviated to SDG and East Grenville, thus retaining the historic nature of the riding and recognizing all portions thereof.

SOUTH AFRICAN TRUST INVESTMENTS ACT LOI SUR LES PLACEMENTS SUD-AFRICAINS DÉTENUS EN FIDUCIE

Hon. Mr. Scott moved first reading of Bill 9, An Act permitting Trustees and Other Persons to dispose of South African Investments.

L'hon. M. Scott propose la première lecture du projet de loi 9, Loi permettant aux fiduciaires et à d'autres personnes d'aliéner les placements sud-africains.

Motion agreed to.

La motion est adoptée.

Hon. Mr. Scott: The purpose of this law is to amend the applicable law to give to managers of trusts, executives of boards of trusts and pensions the option to disinvest in South African investments if they and their shareholders wish to do so under the circumstances that the bill contemplates.

ELECTION AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Cousens moved first reading of Bill 10, An Act to amend the Election Act, 1984.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Cousens: This bill will exempt members of the Canadian Forces, and their spouses and children who live with them, from the requirement of having resided in Ontario for the six months immediately before polling day for the purpose of being entitled to vote in an election in the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Mr. Speaker, can I just take two seconds and go back to petitions since I have brought these in and I missed when you were—

Mr. Speaker: I assume you are asking for unanimous consent of the House to revert. Is there agreement?

Agreed to.

1510

PETITIONS

THERAPY FOR ABUSED CHILDREN

Mr. D. S. Cooke: The first petition reads:

"To the Honourable Provincial Legislature and Lieutenant Governor in Council:

"Whereas the provincial government should take under consideration the need to legislate as mandatory the now discretionary programs of sexual child abuse therapy programs;

"Whereas the programs for sexually and physically abused children are essential if children are to deal with these horrible events in their lives;

"Whereas these programs prevent further emotional problems and may prevent the children of these children from the abuse cycle as it continues;

"Whereas these programs are clearly a preventive program that is appropriate for the children's aid society to staff and manage; and

"Whereas, in the end, the cost to society of not mandating these programs is higher in financial and human terms,

"Therefore, the undersigned, your petitioners, humbly pray and call upon the parliament of the province of Ontario to unequivocally mandate all sexual child abuse and related programs as no longer discretionary."

It is signed by a number of people from the community of Windsor.

NATUROPATHY

Mr. D. S. Cooke: The other petition reads:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario;

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is my constitutional right to have available and choose the health care system of my preference; and

"Whereas naturopathy has had a self-governing status in Ontario for more than 42 years;

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to call on the government to introduce legislation that would guarantee naturopaths the right to practise their art and science to the fullest without prejudice or harassment."

Mr. Speaker: This might be the appropriate time to remind all members that when they are presenting their petitions, according to the standing order, it is not necessary to read all the "whereases." I think the information is contained in the "therefores." It might make business a little more expedient.

MOTION TO SET ASIDE ORDINARY BUSINESS

Mr. Harris moved that, pursuant to standing order 37(a), the business of the House be set aside so that the House might debate a matter of urgent public importance, that being the inability of the government of Ontario to sufficiently address the crisis of the lack of affordable housing and rental accommodation in the province of Ontario.

Mr. Speaker: Notice of this motion was received in my office at 11:26 a.m., therefore in time, and it is in order. I will listen to the honourable member for up to five minutes, as well as representatives from the other parties.

Mr. Harris: I might add that I placed this motion with the full concurrence of my party and particularly with the support of the member for Markham (Mr. Cousens), who, had it not been for this government's inability to deal with the Don Valley Parkway, would have been here to sign the same motion before the 11:30 deadline. However, that is another matter.

The current supply of rental housing in our urban centres has reached unacceptable levels. Since this government took office in 1985, the vacancy rate is three times worse than when it took office. The waiting list for socially assisted housing is longer than it has ever been in the history of this province.

The number of new units constructed is less than what is needed just to keep up with the year-over-year increase in demand, let alone any move on the backlog. In short, by any standard of measurement, the housing crisis is far worse now than when this government took office in 1985. In fact, this housing situation is worse than ever before in the history of our province. The facts speak for themselves. We are facing a socioeconomic crisis, one which has seriously deteriorated over the past two years.

There are an estimated 10,000 homeless people living on the streets of Metropolitan Toronto. Winter is coming. There are young people who cannot find housing. There are seniors looking for rental housing. There are single mothers looking for affordable rental housing for themselves and their children. University and college students are facing a similar severe crisis. At the same time, they are having to compete for the same limited number of affordable housing units as the other groups I mentioned.

This is a crisis which hits our young people, our seniors, our single parents, those who can least afford it, those who are not benefiting from this great decrease in the number of jobless and from this great increase in economic activity that the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) and the Premier (Mr. Peterson) seem so proud of.

What does the government plan to do about this crisis? Yesterday we asked the minister what she was going to do. She gave us—she is learning quickly—a nonanswer. She listed a couple of programs which her government had had in place for the past two years. Today she knows a little more about her ministry and she was successfully able to read a list provided by the ministry of a whole other batch of existing programs that have been in place for the last two years. I guess that is exactly the point of this debate and why we are moving it today.

For the last two years this government's policies have put us in the position we are in today. The only answer we have is to read a list of those same government policies, that somehow, by some miracle—they did not work in 1985, they did not work in 1986 and they did not work in 1987—are going to be the solution to build three

or four times the number of units that have been constructed in the past few years.

Based on the minister's responses to our question, we are forced to conclude that the government really has no plan to deal with this crisis other than the original policies which got us into the crisis in the first place. In fact, the 102,000 units was a figure pulled out of the air; it was required. "Why not mention that in the campaign? It will sound good. How do we do it? I do not know. Can we do it? I do not know. Do we have the money? I do not know. Who cares? Nobody will ask until after the election." We are asking and we do not have the answers.

Not only is this a socioeconomic crisis, it is a crisis in confidence in this government and its ability to deal with this pressing matter. I urge all members of the Legislature to approve this resolution.

Mr. Breagh: I want to begin this afternoon by saying we agree that we should set aside the business of the House and discuss this matter. As a critic who has looked at housing for some time now, I cannot recall an occasion in our history when the situation has been so bleak for so many people. It used to be that a housing problem, by its definition, meant that one sector of housing, as part of our economy, was in trouble. I do not recall a time when the total housing industry and almost every aspect of housing was in a crisis. It seems we cannot escape that, no matter where we look in that whole broad spectrum of social issues that people refer to as housing.

It is true that here in Metropolitan Toronto, this winter in the middle of this kind of affluence, people will die on our streets because there is no place for them to live. The real tragedy is that in another society they would simply say: "We have buildings that are warm, that have washroom facilities. It is an emergency. Why do we not open them up?" The truth is that here in our society we will say: "No, we cannot use the schools in the evening for this kind of purpose. No, we cannot open up the armouries for that kind of purpose," or a whole range of other warm places that are available.

These people will spend their evenings in cardboard boxes and bus shelters and garages, and we know it, but the government has done absolutely nothing, to resolve that problem. It will respond, mind you, and this is a sad commentary on our political system. Those who work with these people have already told us people will die this winter, without question. When they die, the newspapers will carry their photographs and their stories. We will raise the

questions in the Legislature and the minister will stand and announce a brand new program. The sad irony is that we all wish she would listen to those who work with the homeless and respond to that need now.

A rent review system has been in place in Ontario for some time now. It has come to a complete and utter halt. From anybody's perspective, rent review in Ontario is not working; it simply is not functioning. People who are tenants in Ontario have given to their landlords \$1,000, \$2,000 and \$3,000 too much over the last year or so. If one stops to think, will the landlords be happy to search out these tenants all around Ontario and give them back their money? No, I kind of doubt that. I really do not think that is going to happen.

1520

If one looks at the price of housing for people who want to try to buy their first house, it is beyond their reach. If we look at the number of people we know of in Ontario who saved up their money, put their down payment on a new home, expected that the builder would have a legal obligation to complete the house, which is not an unreal expectation, and then we find out subsequently that the builder did not and the people who are responsible for seeing that the houses go on the market say, "There is nothing we can do about it," and the ministry says, "There is nothing we can do about it," we begin to have an appreciation of the kind of crisis that is there.

If one looks at the number of people on fixed income who are spending 50 and 60 per cent of the meagre amounts they get in pensions from government, it is becoming astronomical. This is, by my definition, a crisis. This is, by my definition, something the government of Ontario should respond to in a major way.

One has heard, again this afternoon in question period, the minister read off the list of programs. They sound good. The problem is they do not work. The problem is they do not add to housing supply. They may renovate, they may take some old factories and turn them into housing, but we now know that those programs do not function.

In fact, the reputation of the ministry, quite frankly, among those who are trying their best in their own community to provide housing for senior citizens or for those who are on limited income, is that the Ministry of Housing is one of their biggest single obstacles, to fill out its forms, to run through its hoops, to fill all its obligations. One would even say the Ministry of Housing is not very interested in the provision of housing stock for people in Ontario who need it.

I believe this afternoon it is worth our while to set aside the business of the House and to spend some time this afternoon reviewing these problems. I hope we will get a response from this minister which is far different from what we have seen from previous ministers. I want to end by saying we hope the new minister will bring some opportunity for programs that actually provide housing.

Hon. Mr. Conway: I have before me the motion standing in the name of the member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris) and I want to indicate at the outset that it will certainly be my intention on behalf of the government to see this debate proceed because I intend to be consistent with my position of yesterday, which will be at some variance with the position of the member for Nipissing.

I remind my friend from Nipissing that he argued a very interesting case yesterday in recommending that we not proceed with the emergency debate on the issue of the trade negotiations. I thought it was an interesting argument that he is obviously not advancing today.

The honourable member would surely want to share with me the view that we are setting back the opportunity for the throne speech debate to begin. I do not for a moment suggest that these issues of trade and housing are unimportant because, quite clearly, they are very important. That is what the government has indicated through its program, read by His Honour here earlier in the week. I am sure my friend the Minister of Housing (Ms. Hošek) will be anxious to address this in her remarks later this afternoon.

It is quite clear that this government views the issues of housing and trade as very important issues facing the province and facing the nation, and, I might add, for my friend the member for Etobicoke-Rexdale (Mr. Philip), someone whose views on housing I always listen to, along with the member for St. Catharines (Mr. Bradley), with a very great deal of interest because I find the member for Etobicoke-Rexdale very knowledgeable from a particularly personal point of view on issues relating to housing. I am sure he will want to involve himself in this debate.

I want to say to the member for Nipissing that the government views the housing and trade issues as very important issues. That is why we have so very clearly and so very directly stated our position in the speech His Honour read earlier this week. One of the reasons I am happy, quite frankly, to have the debate proceed this afternoon

is that we have in this caucus a Minister of Housing who brings to her responsibilities a very great commitment and an outstanding intellect that I think will show in a very real way the leadership this government is prepared to provide in this critical area of social and economic policy.

It is a pleasure, almost, to advance the opportunity that the Minister of Housing will have as a result of this emergency debate so that all honourable members will see just the kind of talent this government has to apply to these very important issues.

I would also observe that the member for Eglinton (Ms. Poole) and the member for Algoma-Manitoulin (Mr. Brown) are standing by to move and to second an address in response to His Honour's speech. The member for Algoma-Manitoulin particularly has kept some of his constituents on standby, hoping he might have the opportunity to favour the assembly with his speech this week. I want to say as well that common courtesy would dictate that the member for Eglinton and the member for Algoma-Manitoulin be provided with their opportunity, as I expect the government will be provided with its opportunity to get on with its program.

I am, as the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breagh) and the member for Markham know, a most reasonable person and I intend, in all reasonable ways, to accommodate the opposition. I think I know, as my friend the member for Markham would appreciate, what it is that inspires and informs the opposition in these early days of this, the first session of the 34th Legislature of Ontario.

Having said all of that, having made clear my sweet reasonableness where the opposition is concerned, I do want to ask members to realize that this government has a very important and active agenda that it wishes to proceed with. My friends the member for Eglinton and the member for Algoma-Manitoulin want to begin that with moving and seconding an address in reply to His Honour's speech. We want to give all members of this assembly an opportunity, in the waterfront debate that is the throne speech opportunity, their chance to speak to these issues. Having said all of that, I hope that honourable members opposite in the opposition will now understand that while this emergency debate proceeds, the government's agenda must soon be recognized.

Mr. Speaker: It would appear to me that standing order 37(c) has been fulfilled to its fullest, so we will now go to standing order 37(d). I have no alternative but to put the question.

Shall the debate proceed?

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Speaker: The members will be allowed to speak for a period of up to 10 minutes and they will be able to speak until we have run out of speakers or until the clock strikes six.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Mr. Cousens: I thank other honourable members in the House for their remarks—the member for Oshawa, members opposite and the honourable House leader—as long as he does not think that by being so nice today we are going to support the speech from the throne. We welcome the openness to discussing a major issue in this province at this time taking precedence over other things that are of interest to all of us—and certainly the speech from the throne is of interest. Along with others, I look forward to participating in the debate on that important document.

Unfortunately, we do have a crisis and a crisis, when you see it in terms of people, is one that manifests itself as a major social problem unless you begin to deal with it. There are so many people who are now impacted by the housing problem. They include young couples from all our communities, in large urban metropolitan areas, who want to set up home. In order to do that, they look for a place to live, and it is almost impossible to find one in large urban areas. So then they go further away from work, and the costs of transportation and just the difficulty to get started mean that they are putting off the marriage date and putting off getting started on the things they really want to do.

In cities like Hamilton, we are seeing single parents who have a great responsibility to look after their children and maintain their families but cannot find a place to live. We are seeing seniors in York region, where there is going to be a reduction in the number of nursing home beds, and when they have to leave their own home in which they have been living for many years, they do not have a place to go to. It is another kind of housing crisis, which is the nursing home crisis.

1530

I know of a student at Wilfrid Laurier University who almost—except at the last minute he was able to find accommodation in a student residence—had to reconsider whether or not he would go to Wilfrid Laurier or go to another university closer to home so he could commute from his own home.

We are seeing the problems created for those who are psychiatrically sick, physically disabled or physically disadvantaged who are also facing a

crisis of having accommodation that is near a hospital, near a family or near people who can help them.

There is another form of home crisis and that is the new home buyers. I am not going to touch on this one, but it is a crisis for those who are buying new homes. It was addressed in the speech from the throne and I look forward to seeing just how far this government will go to addressing those problems. But there are the problems of the rich, or those who have money, and there are the problems of many other people in our society, for whom the nature of the problem is so great that they cannot help themselves. They have to rely upon ourselves and the leaders of their community to give them assistance.

I have no doubt in my mind that the housing crisis in our province is the single most important social issue in our society today and we as legislators must deal with it. We must deal with it pragmatically, we must deal with it from all sides so we can attack the problem involving municipalities with the solution—developers—so that we can involve home owners who might be able to subdivide their homes and so that we can bring out programs so that everybody in our province will want to be part of the solution.

It is a crisis that leads to personal alienation in a way. Families have a permanent scar if they have gone without a home or a place to live for a length of time. It so happens that the children of people who have been without homes or in public housing start in a cycle of having to live within that cycle, and they might never get out of it because they will rely upon public housing.

We have to find ways of giving them a sense of purpose and a sense of personal fulfillment so we do not have them put down, but we lift them up. We cannot allow people in our society to feel displaced, and yet so many are. We cannot allow people to ask what is the use of holding a family together. If it becomes such a struggle, does it not lead to some of the family breakups that are going on?

It leads to a cycle of poverty, this homelessness that we see in our society today. Once people give up, they start giving up more when they do not have a home. Is that not something that should be viewed as a right? Has that question been asked? I know it is not in the Constitution, but is it a right for a person to have a home? Maybe we as legislators should start to think about that because this leads to the very basic core of what the need of a family or of a human being is—to have a roof over their heads.

The symptoms of this housing crisis are many. The one is the homelessness, the homelessness we see in Toronto, but it exists in Hamilton, in London, in Windsor, in Ottawa and in other large cities. In Toronto, it is considered that there are 14,000 to 20,000 people on the streets, some living in bus shelters or on the streets themselves, some in tents on campgrounds, some moving from hostel to hostel trying to find a place to live; a Band-Aid approach that is not working. Province-wide, it is a serious problem to have so many people homeless.

Another symptom of this crisis is the vacancy rate. The vacancy rate in Metro has gone down to .01 per cent, but it turns out that only the rich can afford to pay for dwellings or for apartments. The lower to middle income earners are being forced from their homes. They are unable to pay. This whole gentrification process is taking place within the large urban areas.

We are seeing something happen in Metro Toronto that has happened in New York City, where old subdivisions and old homes are being converted, taken over and those who are boarding or renting now have to move elsewhere and further away from the city. It is a certain class of society that becomes privileged to live in the city.

We are seeing abuse of the system because the vacancy rate is so low. One finds key charges and one finds people doing almost anything to get themselves a place to live. One is seeing an increase in the backlog of rental housing and one is seeing huge waiting lists. Yes, we have problems and they are symptomatic of the vacancy rate.

Another symptom of it is just the social and psychological trauma to those people who do not have homes. They are unable to cope and it just drives them further into a state of inadequacy. To what extent are the problems in an inner city such as ours today in Metro Toronto caused because of this problem of housing? I know it is not the only cause, but are violence, family violence, crime and certain other things that go on in this city caused by the housing crisis itself?

What about the food banks? Are they a symptom of the housing crisis? Yes, they are. When people who are on general welfare allowance today are spending in excess of 64 per cent for their home or their rent, when it should be around 25 per cent, no wonder they then have to go to a food bank to get help.

We have to go back to basics in society and respect the needs of all people. Through this crisis maybe there now is hope if this

government—having recognized in an election pledge of August 22 that 102,000 homes were needed in two years—knows what is needed. It knows why it is needed. Now what we need to see coming from this government is when it is going to have some solutions coming to the fore. When are students going to get some of those 5,000 new places that were promised on September 2? When are those 102,000 homes going to be available for people who need them? When are they going to come out with an announcement that says they are going to do it right away and they have a plan going. Stop worrying about all the other things and get on with the housing issue.

She is the Minister of Housing and she has a great responsibility. I hope she will get support from the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) and the other members of cabinet so she can do what she has to do. They made the promise before she was appointed. Now she has to fight so hard in that cabinet that they know the member for Oakwood (Ms. Hošek) is the best cabinet minister there is because she wants it, she demands it and she is going to quit in two years if things are not done.

I hope she does not have to quit. I hope she is able to fight and succeed in winning the battle of getting those homes. She should tell us soon. Maybe today when she speaks she will indicate where they are going to be built. How many of these low-rental homes will be built in Toronto or made available in Toronto? How many in York region? How many in Peel? How many in Oshawa? She should give us a breakout of how many she hopes to have and where. We know about how many in Ontario but she should tell us how many there will be and tell us how she is going to do it.

I could go on, but the time is limited. We have a crisis. The crisis is real. We will continue to fight and fight and fight for the people who need homes in this province.

Mr. Breagh: I want to begin this afternoon by saying that on this side we have some understanding that a previous government decided housing was not the responsibility of the province of Ontario. It basically took apart its ministry and ceased to operate its programs. Perhaps we would have gotten out of that mess if the federal government had not at the same time said, "It is not our responsibility either." The two senior levels of government, up until this point in our history, had been quite active and in fact had found it politically attractive to go and cut the ribbons at the seniors' apartments, to open up new housing authorities all across Ontario and to

build units and to operate them. Had they not both decided at the same time to abandon ship, perhaps we would not be in quite this serious a mess.

I think too from this side of the House we have said for the last two years that we understand the ministry was basically dismantled and that they need some time to kind of get things back in gear. They need to build programs inside. They need to staff programs and they need to make up their minds on how they want to approach this issue.

I wish I could say they have had a couple of years to get ready and they have made up their minds on how to do things and now we are ready to get down to business. I wish I could say that, but I cannot. I cannot because people still keep knocking on my door saying, "Here is a problem I have and I went to the Ministry of Housing and it is not interested." Let me give a couple of examples. I know all the background so do not bother having the staff scramble around to provide the minister with notes.

1540

A guy called me up and said: "I went to rent a town house in North York and a guy wanted \$4,000 for key money. I went to the cops and they said, 'Well, you know, if you pay the bribe, it may be a bribe and maybe not.' " Who of us has \$4,000 change in our pockets this afternoon to pay for key money so a police officer can write up a charge? That is not very practical.

The gentleman went to the Ministry of Housing and they said: "Well, that's not our responsibility. We're not sure what you should do. We don't look at that kind of stuff."

I understand the background that we are not quite sure which law is being broken here. We are not quite sure who should lay the charges. We are not quite sure who should do the investigation. But I tell members very simply, a Ministry of Housing that is aware that somebody wants \$4,000 in key money and decides it is not interested in pursuing the matter is not a ministry which is very sensitive to the needs of our citizens.

Let me give another example. The ministry is aware that all throughout downtown Toronto there are developers who are taking apartment buildings and turning them into apartment hotels. The ministry knows they are gouging, and the ministry knows they are working very hard to evict all of their tenants and are saying to them, "We want a 20 per cent increase in rent, and you've got to pay it and we'll hold on to it for a year and maybe give it back to you later."

The ministry knows it is saying, "Well, it is now the tenant's responsibility to pay the hydro," which involves heat for the unit. The ministry knows that the landlords are pretty actively attempting to get people out, to the point where even though people have paid their rent, they receive a pretty official looking eviction notice.

The ministry knows all of this stuff, because I have seen copies of the correspondence going from the tenants to the ministry, but the ministry is not sure whether it can or should do anything and it is not doing anything.

The irony in these buildings in downtown Toronto is that the examples that have been quoted to me are examples of buildings that were put up with government of Ontario financing to provide housing for people in lower-income groups. At the time of their construction, they got additional densities from the city of Toronto on the basis that this type of housing was needed and if the city of Toronto would only increase its densities they would be able to provide more units for people who need some kind of assistance with their housing.

Government money built these units. Governments approved higher densities. Governments are now sitting around saying, "But there's nothing we can do" when they turn around and evict the tenants and turn the units into hotel units because they can make a bigger buck.

I do not care whether it fits within the framework of any given law or program or not. If it is a ministry that is established to look after housing in Ontario, these matters ought to be of some concern to it.

Let me give a couple of other examples. There are a number of young families who went north of Toronto and put downpayments on houses and sold their own homes and moved out in anticipation that builders would actually do what the contract said: provide them with a house at a given date for a given price. When the builders walked away from the units, the people who are responsible for the building industry, the Ontario Home Builders' Association, said, "We're not sure we can do anything either."

Is it not a hell of a situation when the Ministry of Housing in Ontario and the developers in Ontario know full well that young families scraped together their downpayments, sold their houses, left their homes, the new houses are not completed and nobody could do anything for these people? Is that not a clear indication that we have not learned many lessons here; that there is a problem which maybe is not covered by existing law—although I must say, from my simple point

of view, it seems to me that if you sign a contract to buy something or to provide a service and people do not do that, that is what I call fraud.

If I bought a car from a dealer and at the time I went to pick it up the dealer said, "There is no car," or "It costs more money; I can't provide that," I would be happy to go to court. But all these young families are not happy to go to court. They want a house. They thought they had done what was required of them to get a house, and when it comes time to move in they find the house is not there.

Let me give a couple of other examples of things that are going on in housing that I know the minister is aware of and that I know the ministry itself is aware of.

It seems to me—and in this I mitigate my criticism somewhat—we are going to have to take a look at the practice of selling condominiums, for example, that are nothing more than an artist's concept, that have not been taken through the planning process, that are not there, that no one really knows will make it through the zoning bylaws. People in this city are spending \$100,000, \$200,000, \$300,000 for condominium projects that are only some developer's design right now. What will happen to those people when the city of Toronto says, "Maybe we do not want that kind of density on that particular site."? Maybe somebody will say, "Perhaps we ought to actually have a waterfront plan," as every other community in Ontario has an official plan.

These projects will all have to conform to that, and we do not know what that waterfront plan will be yet. What are we going to do for those people? I have not heard much in the way of comment from the minister.

Let me give you some other examples, too, because I heard the minister run through her wonderful programs today. I have had the sad experience of trying to get some financing for people who are handicapped, for example, to make very simple adjustments to a house they already have so they can get a wheelchair in and out. It is about as easy to beat the Russians in a hockey game as it is to get money out of the ministry for this kind of stuff.

The programs are announced but the money seems to be totally invested in pamphlets. There does not seem to be a process at work whereby ordinary citizens can take advantage of programs that are being advertised by this government.

I suppose they have a legal right to get their member to come and fight the bureaucracy and a legal right to get a lawyer and go to court and see

that the government delivers, but it seems to me that in these instances the government itself is more interested in advertising the program than actually making the program work. I will bet there is not a member in here—there certainly will not be after a little while—who has not gone through the same experience, because in our offices are all the government pamphlets advertising these programs.

People come in and say, "Mike, how do I get some money out of the province of Ontario so I can do a little work around the house and get a ramp put in?" We hand them the pamphlet—we are kind of partners in this crime to some degree—then, subsequently, they find out it is not quite as easy as the pamphlet says.

Let me give the minister a couple of suggestions on what she might do if she wants to get some housing supply on the market in a hurry.

There are municipalities, community groups and church groups out there which are begging for some help from Ontario to put some housing on the market. They have been fighting ministry bureaucracy for more than a year. I know them. Why does the ministry not send the bureaucrats on vacation for a little while or, worse yet, let them do something positive for a while? Instead of designing the forms, why does it not have them fill out the forms? Why does it not have them do all the surveys they want? If that is necessary, let them do it. Let us do something a little bit more positive. I do not want the minister to reside. I want her, very simply, to get to work.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I would like to take this opportunity to give the House an outline of our housing accomplishments over the last two years, and to touch briefly on our plans to build on the solid foundation of the assured housing program.

I believe this strategy indicates the aggressive stance the government has taken to address the problems of those many individuals and families of moderate incomes who are unable to afford adequate accommodation.

Since 1985, the government of Ontario has committed \$645 million to deliver our assured housing program. Most of this money is being directed into programs to create affordable housing units.

In Ontario, we have seen a variety of housing programs which use a package of initiatives designed to increase the supply of affordable housing. Our strong commitment to nonprofit housing programs symbolizes the success of our program. Let me give you a few examples.

Seniors, single parents, physically disabled adults and low-income families have been provided with quality housing through the federal-provincial nonprofit housing program. Since 1985, 6,700 new nonprofit housing units have been supplied each year, and we are pledging to maintain that level of support into the 1990s.

Decent homes are now being provided to battered women, low-income singles, people who no longer require institutionalized psychiatric care and others. These individuals are also being provided with sorely needed support services; 3,000 nonprofit housing units are being allocated through this special needs housing program, the entire bill for which is being picked up by the province.

1550

Low- and moderate-income households will benefit from a new program creating 3,600 nonprofit housing units over the next three years. We unveiled this program in August, and again the provincial government is picking up 100 per cent of the cost.

A new program, the supportive community living program, will provide ex-offenders, substance abusers, the homeless and other special needs groups with quality housing linked to support services; 1,000 new units will be created through this program.

If you add up these figures, it means that by 1992 we will have made pledges for over 54,000 new nonprofit housing units over a seven-year period. When these 54,000 units are added to the 50,000 nonprofit units built in Ontario before 1985, the total rises beyond 100,000. In fact, by 1992 our nonprofit housing supply and pledges will outstrip our existing Ontario Housing Corp. portfolio of 84,000 units.

As an example of our commitment to social housing, we are funding more than 42,000 rent-geared-to-income units in a five-year period. This is equivalent to more than one third the total number of rent-geared-to-income units created in the previous 23 years. The government has not ignored the fact that there are 27,000 households on the Ontario Housing Corp. waiting list for assisted housing. The 42,000 units I have just mentioned will play a substantial role in providing affordable housing for families and individuals in need.

We provided new money to enrich existing housing supply and renovation programs and to launch several new initiatives. In the past few months, almost \$60 million has been allocated

through the convert-to-rent and home sharing programs to create new rental units.

Under convert-to-rent, an additional 8,000 units will be developed at a cost of \$56 million. Under an expanded home sharing program that encourages shared accommodation of a family house or apartment, 22 agencies will be funded. This program, which is aimed primarily at the elderly, will produce about 1,500 matches over three years.

Additional funding of nearly \$24 million will be provided to conserve and rehabilitate 4,500 private homes and low-rise apartments.

To ensure that older housing stock remains in a reasonable state of repair, an additional \$12 million has been allocated to the Ontario home renewal program. An additional \$1.5 million has been allocated to the home renewal program for disabled persons to make housing modifications that increase accessibility for a disabled occupant. The low-rise rehabilitation program will be expanded to include rooming, boarding and lodging houses. An additional \$10 million will be committed to the program which offers owners forgivable loans of up to \$5,000 per unit to upgrade older apartments.

We believe 2,000 units will be rehabilitated under these expanded provisions, and earlier this year, as members are aware, the government brought roomers, boarders and lodgers under the protection of the Landlord and Tenant Act.

On government-owned lands, 12,000 housing units will be developed over the next five years. More than 4,000 of these units will be moderately priced housing. We will encourage and work with municipalities to ensure that at least 25 per cent of new housing units created in the municipalities are in the form of affordable housing. The Ontario home ownership savings plan will enable moderate-income households to start saving for a first home.

Between 1985 and 1990, that means that 102,000 units will be completed through this program; 66,000 of these units will be new; 36,000 will be kept on the market through renovation and rejuvenation. This is the most aggressive housing strategy throughout the country.

The development pressures and the increased cost of land and construction in the greater Metro Toronto area are having an adverse impact on the developers of social housing. The capital cost guideline for a three-bedroom apartment in a government-subsidized, nonprofit building with four or more storeys was increased last Friday to \$100,000 in the greater Metro Toronto area.

We believe this is going to make a significant difference. The people in Peel have said this will mean that 538 units they thought they would not be able to build are now going to be able to be built very soon. The government is committed to overcome the obstacles faced by social housing producers in the greater Metro Toronto area.

As the Minister of Housing, I recognize that each sector involved in housing development, private, public, nonprofit and voluntary, plays a critical role in the provision of housing.

Turning now to another element of our assured housing strategy, we are committed to the new system of rent review as a means of maintaining affordable housing and protecting more than three million tenants throughout Ontario. We have put in place a rent review process based upon the unique agreement reached by a committee of landlords and tenants in 1986.

We have in place a system whereby for the first time all tenants in Ontario are protected by rent review, which ensures the viability of the rental housing market. At the present time, 80 per cent of tenants in Ontario will receive a rent increase during 1987 which is at or below the rent review guideline. The 1988 guideline has been announced at 4.7 per cent, providing many tenants with an even lower rent increase in the year ahead.

There are some major improvements in protection for tenants that our system offers.

First, the elimination of unregulated rent increases. In the past, more than 100,000 tenants in newer rental buildings and thousands more in rooming and boarding houses had no protection from rent increases of whatever magnitude.

Second, we have reduced and will eventually eliminate illegal rents. It has been estimated that up to half the tenants in Ontario faced illegal rent increases under the old rent review system. The registration of rents has virtually eliminated this threat in all large rental properties. More than 80 per cent of landlords in larger buildings registered on time earlier this year. Many landlords of smaller buildings have registered their rent voluntarily. We will be ensuring that all landlords comply with rent registration.

As I said earlier, I recognize that each sector involved in housing development, private, public, nonprofit and voluntary, plays a critical role in the provision of housing. I cannot and will not promise quick fixes to all the problems we face today—and I acknowledge that they are serious—but I do want to assure members that this government intends to follow through with the

commitments we have made since 1985 and the commitments we have made in recent weeks.

Last August, the Premier made a statement which captures, I think, the feeling of all members of this House. He said, "I believe that a caring and compassionate society such as ours must do everything it can to ensure that affordable quality housing is available to all."

This government has already set a new course for housing through our assured housing strategy. In listing the initiatives we have started and the gains that have already been made, we cannot deny that much more needs to be done and this government is prepared and committed in taking on that challenge. We must ensure that assisted housing provides a roof within a community environment.

The provision of decent housing which people can afford is of paramount importance to me as Minister of Housing and to this government. I believe the programs established through the assured housing strategy have demonstrated the government's active commitment. There is a great deal more that we must do, and we intend to search out innovative and creative solutions in order to do it.

Mr. McCague: To the minister, congratulations for her election to this august body and for her appointment to cabinet as Minister of Housing.

The minister may not know yet, but Ontario sort of starts at Highway 7, and I hope she is able to get north of that on occasion to look after some of the programs that we think are important in that part of the country. It still includes part of the riding of my honourable colleague in front of me too.

I was intrigued by, and I think it is very important, the kinds of things the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breagh) said about the number of people out there who are willing to go along with the minister's programs but who are frustrated not only by the red tape that is involved but by the government's unwillingness, when it really comes down to it, to fund those programs.

I understand the minister has various programs where the money was not all used in 1985 and probably again in 1986-87. It is hard for people in my part of the province, Simcoe West, to understand that there is money left over and yet the minister does not see fit to fund—if not the minister, her predecessor—the projects that are done by churches, legions, councils, groups of interested citizens and people who spend an awful lot of time getting the project ready, filling in the reams of paper that are put in front of them,

only to be turned down because they do not meet the priorities of the ministry and the priorities the ministry sets.

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I can understand that in a way, but I wonder why the government would not choose to give them a year when it would fund it. There is a lot of lead time involved in that. If it could not fund them in 1986, maybe it could do it in 1987, but it could let them know in 1986 so that they could get their cards all lined up and they would have that assurance.

Many of these people who would enter these kinds of facilities are single persons living in big houses in places like Collingwood, Creemore, Angus, Tottenham, Alliston or any municipality with a council that we could mention in the great riding of Simcoe West.

I think the government today has given a very glowing report of what the ministry has done. The minister is always very careful, as are all her colleagues in cabinet, to remind the public that the government has done so much in three years and that it has done more than somebody else did in the 10 previous years. I suggest the circumstances are much different than they were 13 or 14 years ago. The circumstances are different today, and just because she beat somebody else does not mean that she is doing her job. I think she has a big job to do. It is more crucial than it ever was.

In the rent control program, although the government makes the point she does, doing her duty as minister, the 1976 buildings are now covered. That really means absolutely nothing in the riding of Simcoe West because there is hardly a rent that goes above that, and because of the problems with getting assistance, there have not been that many buildings built since that time.

I am intrigued by her new program, the one that is going to allow people to save money for a house. Even in my part of the country, you really cannot buy a house for the price at which these people will have to buy one even to be able to afford it. According to the figures I have, when you take your \$10,000 maximum, you take \$1,000 per year for five years and some tax savings, it really says that a couple making \$40,000 a year and investing \$2,000 a year comes up with \$11,700, which means that they can afford to buy a house for only \$117,000. I do not know where you would get one for that. They are very scarce. You might get a town house in certain areas of the province, but you have to go a long way north of Toronto, to the east or to the west, I believe, to find a house today for

\$117,000. That is 10 years away. If you started today to save your 10 years' credits, you could not buy one for 10 years, and who knows where the prices will be? Maybe they will be down. I would doubt that very much.

I would just like the minister to separate herself a little bit from the people in the ministry. From some things I have heard in the last two or three days, the people in her ministry are even saying that her target of 102,000 houses in the next year or two—and now it looks like three years—is a goal that is not attainable. There just are not the bricks, the mortar, the people, the land and so forth and so on; that is not attainable. She has set herself apart from the ministry. I congratulate her for that because even though they are saying she cannot, she is saying she can. That is the kind of determination we need in a minister. I hope she is successful. I will be the first to congratulate her if she attains that.

In her account, she has rolled in some things such as the Ontario home renewal plan, which is a good plan and does allow some people who cannot afford it to fix up their older homes and otherwise stay in them when they might have to vacate them. But even though she wants to put the interpretation of this moment on it, I do not think she can roll that into her 102,000 new units. I think she is stretching it a little bit, as she is in some of the other programs which she adds up to get the kind of tally she wants.

In summation, Minister, do not forget that there is a lot of Ontario north of Highway 7. Do not forget that there are a lot of people in my part of the country, as I know there are in all the ridings of all the people here but more especially in the more rural parts of Ontario, who are very keen to participate in projects.

I am very upset about the fact that the ministry seems to frustrate all the best efforts of many, many good people. They are there to help her and to help me and to help the people who need housing. Let us make use of them, and I hope the minister is a participant in that.

The Acting Speaker (Miss Roberts): The member for Scarborough West.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Thank you, Madam Speaker, welcome to the chair, and welcome to the minister in the hot seat, which will be hers for the next while, I would think, because housing is a crisis and this is one of those occasions when an emergency debate is warranted. The vacuous follow-up to a vacuous debate on the speech from the throne can well be put aside when we consider just the dramatic proportions of the problems that are out there for people.

In 1981, Ross McClellan, then the member for Bellwoods, and I went into the city hall garage in Toronto and discovered 22 people sleeping in the stairwells. That was in 1981. We are now in the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, at last, in 1987. In the last three years, at least one person a year has died in the city of Toronto, at least in part due to their homeless situation.

In 1984, as critic for Community and Social Services, I brought in a number of people who were on waiting lists for housing. At that point there was a deplorable number of 18,000 families in Ontario who were waiting for housing, some of them for as long as a year or a year and a half. Today, even by the minister's figures, there are 28,000 families.

We all know that just spending 80 per cent of your income on rent is no guarantee at all that you will get housing, even within two years now. You basically have to be in an absolute crisis situation to get into housing. You have to be living in deplorable conditions. You usually have to have some kind of illness which goes along with it or be a battered woman to be bumped up on the list to get into housing in Metropolitan Toronto these days. If you just happen to be spending almost all your income on living in terrible poverty in Ontario today, you are not going to get into housing, and that is why it is a crisis.

The Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) is here and I am glad to see that. We have continuing high numbers of people on social assistance in the province, even with our low unemployment. Most members, I am sure, are aware that less than 20 per cent of those people live in public housing. The rest of them are out there in the private market.

When you think of the amount of money it costs now for a one-bedroom, illegal apartment in a basement in Scarborough—which my wonderful council is now trying to tighten up and close down—consider that could cost \$700 a month. The minister knows how much a single mum with one child will get from social assistance now in this province. There is nothing left for that mother but to go to a food bank to get food for her children. That is why we are in a crisis situation.

The vacancy rates at this stage are as low as they have ever been in the eight years since I have been elected. The student housing crisis, now that I am the critic for that area, is incredible. I am glad to hear the minister for that portfolio saying today she is going to respond to that, at least in part.

But in 1975 we brought in rent review because of enormous problems in rental accommodation—escalation of rents. I cannot believe that the minister, new as she is at this job, today can get up and talk about how wonderful the new system is and talk about 80 per cent of the tenants receiving rates that are below the level or at the level that is established as a base, when she knows that 20 per cent of them are now getting hit with rates that are almost as high as they were in 1975. We now have a situation where landlords are getting increases of 20 per cent, 25 per cent and 30 per cent again, and we supposedly have rent review.

1610

As the critic for our party has already said, there are thousands of people paying out large amounts of money, hoping to win their cases some day— if they are ever heard, because the appeal system is still not working and will probably never catch up. It is truly a Kafkaesque situation.

I stand here today and listen to the litany of programs this government has to solve the problem. I do hope that the tally perhaps has more meaning than the old thing that used to preoccupy philosophers in the Middle Ages of tallying up the number of angels who could dance on the head of a pin. I hope it has a better connection to reality than that, but I doubt it and I warn the minister that she should not be making projections she cannot keep. Unless we have a major revision of our policies in Ontario, she will not make her 100,000 figure. She will never do it.

We just have to look at what happened to some of the programs over the last little while to understand how substantial the problems are and why these programs are not working. Look at the newest one. The last speaker alluded to this. I found it incredible that the Premier (Mr. Peterson) was not just massacred by the press in the last election when he came out with this absolutely preposterous notion of young, potential home buyers being able to put aside \$1,000 a year for 10 years to be able to get themselves a good down payment on a home in Ontario. By 1997, they could have \$10,000 to put down on a home.

Ms. Bryden: Where do they live?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: The member for Beaches-Woodbine (Ms. Bryden) makes a good point. Where do they live in the meantime to do that and how are they managing to put aside any money at all? Given the amounts a lot of them may be putting out is one whole matter, but when

you consider what you need for a down payment in Toronto at the moment, it is a ludicrous proposition. The average price for a home in downtown Toronto these days is over \$200,000. Ten thousand dollars is meaningless in 1987, let alone 10 years from now.

If that is the kind of response this government has to the proposal that people in our province should still have the aspiration and the belief that in Ontario they should be able to aspire some day to owning a home, then I suggest it is fooling the people on that as much as it is in its protestations around free trade.

I remind them of the study put out by the Social Planning Council of Metropolitan Toronto recently which shows that fewer people, a lower percentage of people in our society, can afford to buy homes today than could in 1970. If their one program to try to change that around is this preposterous notion of \$10,000 by 1997, think of what the figures are going to look like by then in terms of who is going to be able to afford the homes. It is going to be the people who can afford the \$1-million-plus condominiums; it is not going to be the average worker from my riding.

I want to raise one other point and then wrap up. Last year, the last initiative I took on housing was around the disabled, showing how hard it is to get your home renovated to allow your home to be accessible so that you can stay in the community or for your family to do that for you. The government came through with a new program that looked as if it was answering all the questions. Now, when we start to try to make applications, we see that the fine print makes it just as restrictive as the past programs were. I ask the minister, in connection with the Minister without Portfolio responsible for disabled persons (Mr. Mancini) to look at changing that program, because it will otherwise rule out a lot of people being able to participate.

The final thing I would say is that you have to look at this crisis, the fact that people may die this winter again, the fact that the housing conditions for many people are intolerable. The cost of housing is putting owning a house out of reach in the context that this government spends about two per cent of the total budget that it has to offer on providing housing to the people of Ontario.

I suggest it is time to change that around and understand that housing is a right in Ontario and that the minister is going to have to put forward a much better argument for a major increase in her funds than her predecessor has been able to do if we are ever going to be able to match the

problems that are out there that need to be fixed so desperately.

Hon. Mr. Mancini: I am pleased to be able to join in this emergency debate that has been brought forward by the members of the Conservative Party. I know they are very interested in this matter; so interested, in fact, that they interrupted the regular business of the House, all of the regular proceedings, so that three of their members could be in the House at this time to be present and take part in this emergency debate. That is about how interested they are.

I also want to say that there has not been anything said this afternoon up until this point in time that the members across the floor could not have said during the regular throne speech debate. They have again put off the regular business of the House in order to have an emergency debate, and that is fine. That is a decision for them to make, and we are going to try to be as co-operative as possible. But it certainly looks, to me anyway, that they may not be as interested as they claim when they rise immediately after question period asking all the members of the House to put off the regular business so that three of them can be here to participate this afternoon.

There have been a couple of good points made by some of the members that I would like to respond to. I was particularly interested in what the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh) had to say in regard to the programs for the disabled. I would like to know from him in more detail some of the cases that have been brought to his attention as far as individual families that have not been successful, because I am very interested in this program. My colleague the Minister of Housing and I want to make this program work. We are deeply committed to ensuring that the disabled can in fact live in their homes. I would like to hear more from him on a personal basis.

I just want to mention to him that my colleague the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere (Mr. Faubert) tells me that in his particular riding he has assisted three different families in obtaining funding. I am hearing two different things. I am hearing from one member that the program is in fact serving the needs and I am hearing from my colleague across the floor, whom I respect a great deal, something else. That is why I would like to hear from him.

The programs for the disabled are in fact very extensive, and because the election has just recently taken place, I do not know if members have had a chance to review in detail the number of programs that are in place for the disabled. I

would just like to take a moment or two to explain to the new members of the House, in particular, some of the programs that we have.

There is the Ontario home renewal program for disabled persons, which we refer to as OHRP-D. This program offers assistance to disabled home owners or home owners with a permanent resident who has a disability. This program allows for modifications, and there are interest-free loans of up to \$15,000. As far as I know, this program has been taken up by a lot of people and is working successfully. I would like to hear more, as I said, from my colleague who had spoken earlier.

The convert-to-rent program is being taken up. There is \$7,500 per unit which is available.

The low-rise rehabilitation program: There is a forgivable loan of up to \$5,000 which is available.

The federal-provincial nonprofit program: There are funds which are available for thousands of units.

The special provincial nonprofit initiative: That is another program which I think members can inform their constituents about.

The Ontario community housing assistance program that the province is participating in is available.

There are a couple of others which I will not go into detail about at the present time. I just want the members to know that the government has moved on a number of fronts. We have been very active over the past two years and we have tried to address the housing needs of this province in a significant and sincere way.

1620

This government realized immediately that housing is a social matter. That is why the Minister of Housing is a member of the social policy committee of cabinet. The first time that ever happened was two years ago. She sits on that committee with my colleague, the member for Kitchener-Wilmot (Mr. Sweeney) and others, because we know that housing is a social policy matter. So the House can see that over the past two years we have been aggressive in this area, we have introduced a litany of programs.

I guess I could say to my colleagues across the floor that they could criticize us in two areas. They could criticize us for not introducing programs or they could criticize us because the programs do not work perfectly. As part of this government, I would rather be criticized because the programs do not work perfectly than for not having introduced them at all. I think we are

breaking new ground. I think the government is sincere in what it is trying to do.

We know that the job is massive and that there are many thousands of units to be built. We realize that. The Minister of Housing stated that early in her term of office. She stated what her commitments are and she is moving aggressively forward. So as far as the government is concerned, I do not think we have anything to be ashamed of. I think we have been on top of the job and we have our finger on the pulse. We know what the needs are and we are trying to make the programs that we have instituted work. That is our responsibility.

I also want to take this opportunity to say to my colleagues opposite that the issue of rent control, which was addressed by the House last year, has been a great boon to our residents. Many members will say that there are problems, but all of them must honestly say that until the Liberal government was elected, people who lived in apartment buildings occupied after January 1, 1976, had no protection. Today they have protection. All members know that there were thousands of applications put in for review, but had that legislation not passed, these people would have had no recourse whatsoever and they would have been subjected to unfair rent increases. It is going to be a matter of time before this backlog is cleared up and for the system to operate smoothly.

The honourable members sit across the floor and they chuckle, but I wonder if they realize just what a big job it is to create a rent registry so that every single apartment is registered and we can keep track of the units. If the honourable members across the floor are fair—and I know the member for Oshawa to be eminently fair, grumpy sometimes, grumpy most of the time, I should say. He knows the difficulty in creating a registry. He knows the difficulty in handling the backlog of claims.

There were a number of rent review officers to handle these claims who were hired prior to the election. I am informed there may be a number more hired in the near future so we can speed up this backlog.

Mr. Breagh: It sounds like the young Liberals will be hired.

Hon. Mr. Mancini: I say to the member who brings up a matter about who is going to be hired or not—I just want to remind him that we did not forget one of his colleagues who was recently appointed to a very prestigious board, just a couple of weeks ago. So I think we have been handling the appointments in a very fair manner.

I also want to say to my friends across the floor—I am going to ignore the Conservatives altogether because any party that moves an emergency debate and then leaves three members in the House to conduct the debate for it does not deserve to be recognized. So I am going to address my comments to the members who have taken some interest in being here.

The rent review legislation which was put in place was put in place after consultation with tenant groups and with the industry, because they know as well as we know it is the industry that must build many thousands of these units. We have to have a system that is acceptable to both.

I was quite pleased when the tenant groups in my constituency endorsed the proposed legislation. The legislation was held up, I believe, for more than a year by committee and by other political wrangling in the House, so I do not think it is fair to say that we have this backlog only because the program is not working. Part of that backlog was created because we were a year behind schedule getting started because it took so long to pass the legislation.

Mrs. Marland: I must say at the outset that I would like to address the comments made by the member for Essex South. He referred to the fact that only three of the Conservative caucus were interested in this subject. I would like to point out to him that I am the fourth speaker and there is going to be at least one other speaker after me, which makes five. I would emphasize the fact that five is, in fact, a third of our caucus.

It is very interesting when he suggests that the regular business of this House has been set aside by a motion of this caucus. I would tell the member for Essex South that I am very proud of the fact that the Conservative caucus sees this issue to be as critical and as grave as it is and that, yes indeed, we placed a motion for an emergency debate and, yes indeed, we set aside the regular business of this House because goodness knows what the regular business of this House is going to be for the next four years based on the content of the throne speech that we were blessed to hear two days ago.

When we are talking about shelter, I would suggest to the member for Essex South that, after food, we are talking about the next single item for the survival of thousands of people in this province. When we are talking about the roofs over the heads of these people who are trying to survive, who are indeed homeless, we are not talking about the regular business of the provincial Legislature. We are talking about the regular business of people surviving in this province

today, and I feel that it is a very grave statement for a member of the government to suggest today that this emergency debate is not needed and that to set aside the regular business of the house was superfluous and unnecessary.

I am very proud to stand in this Legislature today and continue the debate that I have stood in this House four times previously in the last two years and discussed. To be quite frank, I am concerned that for two years we have heard indeed—to use the member for Essex South's own words—an introduction of "a litany of programs." Those were his words, not mine.

It is perfectly true that this government has introduced a litany of programs and promises, and that is all they have done. We still have an increasing number of people who do not have homes they can afford and do not have alternatives for housing. That is an interesting aspect in itself. The very fact that we are here talking about affordable housing is an irony, I would suggest, because in fact what we are talking about is unaffordable housing.

I do not take credit for those words. Last Friday, just a week ago tomorrow, in the city of Mississauga—the most progressive city, I would like to suggest, in this province—we held a conference called *How To Provide Affordable Housing: Actions, Plans and Solutions*. As a matter of fact, the Minister of Housing was a speaker at that conference.

At that conference, Bill Grenier, who is in the business of building homes, in fact said that while we are discussing housing and the lack of it, we should be talking about whether it is affordable or unaffordable. The fact is that unaffordable housing is the issue. There are houses being built. There are houses that some people can afford to buy, but the fact is that there are no houses for very, very many people.

It is ironical, I would suggest, that today this debate is taking place in the same year when worldwide we have not the celebration, I would say, but when we are having the event of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. It is very interesting but very sad to know that not only in Ontario but, indeed, in this country we do share with the other countries of the world a very major problem.

1630

I am sorry that I am still having to stand here and speak on this issue for a third or fourth time, because the points that have been made and been presented to this government over the past two years apparently have had no impact in helping this government find a solution.

Is it not rather ironical when we look at some of the so-called programs that this government has introduced? They decided that perhaps what they should do is put the victims of family violence at the top of the list for emergency apartments. That is great, and I must say that, as a former member of the board of the Peel Non-Profit Housing Corp., I was certainly aware of the long lists that we had for affordable units in the region of Peel.

I know that we now have in this Legislature the member for Mississauga West (Mr. Mahoney), a newly elected member. He has been chairman of Peel Non-Profit Housing Corp., and I am sure that when he has an opportunity, he will reinforce the tremendous need we have for housing in the region of Peel, based on the experience of that nonprofit housing corporation, where we have something like 2,300 families on a waiting list.

Now, the government decided that they would prioritize victims of family violence on these lists and they would go to the head of the lists. That I agree with. However, it does not change the availability of the units for those families. It means that they are at the head of the list, but it does not do anything to the waiting list. It does not reduce the waiting list; it just reshuffles the names and the priority of order.

The other issue that I think we have to talk about is what is equitable in terms of a solution. Is it equitable to ask everyone to double up their homes? Where we have single-family homes and we have established neighbourhoods within some communities around this province, are we going to say to them, "Well, the only thing is that we are going to have to have large units divided by two or three or four"?

Are we going to say that we are going to crowd families into a single-family home because there is nowhere else for them to go? Are we going to say to seniors who are taxed out of their houses, "Well, you know, perhaps because there are not affordable apartments for you to move into now that you are taxed out of your home, what you should do is take in boarders"? To what degree are we willing to have an intrusion on people's choice of accommodation in order to solve the housing crisis?

I would suggest that a government that is responsible would find very real programs and very real alternatives to solving the housing crisis and not suggest that everybody who lives in a single-family home will have to rent out their basements and change the very essence of a community.

It is very interesting because I would guess that probably the members of the government, without exception, live in either apartments or single-family homes, or perhaps they are fortunate enough to live in a duplex or a fourplex or a sixplex. But I would suggest the members of this government are not yet in a position where they are renting a basement apartment.

I would suggest they have as many calls in their constituency offices as I do where people are so desperate that they would share any accommodation anywhere in order to have somewhere to live. I could cite one example after another. One of the previous speakers this afternoon referred to the fact that we have apartment buildings all over this province that are being converted to apartment hotels. In Port Credit I have exactly that situation and I have an elderly widow who is in particularly dire straits. She has been a resident of an apartment building in Port Credit for 24 years, and now it is being converted to a hotel and she has nowhere to go.

It is rather interesting when we look at the kinds of figures that Peter Smith—he is another person in the region of Peel, I must say, of whom I am particularly proud because of his particular talents and his ability. He is the housing commissioner for the region of Peel, and as recently as a month ago he chaired a conference in Ottawa to mark the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless—Mr. Smith's own figures state that 50,000 to 65,000 people are homeless in the greater Toronto area.

With that kind of authority giving us those kinds of figures, it is a further reinforcement of the fact that we have done enough talking about this problem with this government for the past two years. I hope the minister will be able to do something that her predecessor was not able to do and that is to solve this crisis so we no longer will have to have emergency debates to deal with housing for people in Ontario.

Mr. Philip: I would like to rise to deal with some very specific issues that are related to this debate, namely the aftermath or the fallout from Bill 51 and how it affects the average tenant in this province.

The Residential Rent Regulation Act, Bill 51, which was so very long in coming, was given royal assent on December 4, 1986, and we have yet to see a rent review go through that process and come to a conclusion. The bulk of the administrative features on the legislation have yet to be put into force because, of course, they rely on regulation rather than on the act itself.

When you ask the residential tenancy manager in the local rent review office, "What is the application in this kind of situation?" usually he cannot answer you. During the two weeks following my re-election I spent every day in the Etobicoke rent review office going through landlords' cost-revenue statements and files. They most courteously provided me with an office as I was going to be there every day and I had an opportunity to watch people come and go because the office was right opposite the reception area.

I found it interesting because tenants would come in and look at a file, spend 10 or 15 minutes and leave. The reason for that is not that the tenants are not concerned about the increases of 10, 15, 20 or 25 per cent the landlords were asking for, but rather that the system that was created is so complex, so bureaucratic, so absolutely beyond the comprehension even of lawyers who are specializing in this field, that the average tenant going into the rent review office feels hopeless.

I want to deal with some of the comments made by the previous minister when he went around the province saying: "The tenants are in favour of Bill 51. Look at all the protection it is giving." In fact, it gives less protection than the former legislation brought in by the previous Conservative government. It is not by accident that the major tenants' associations in this province, such as the Federation of Metro Tenants' Associations in Metro Toronto and the Ottawa Federation of Tenants' Associations, to name only two, have been absolutely opposed to it and say it is a step backward rather than a step forward.

A comment from the tenants' bulletin published by the Federation of Metro Tenants' Associations says tenants have received little in return and the bills that were so long in coming not only fail to deliver on the promises made by the Premier to tenants but also were giant steps in the wrong direction. Both pieces of legislation, namely, Bill 51 and Bill 11, put the landlord's profits ahead of the legislation.

Not only are tenants confused by it; if you talk to the officials in the ministry, you will find that the act itself is quite confusing to them and that there are many questions still unanswered. Thus we have a situation where you pretty well have to be an expert working in the field of tenant law in order to represent tenants before the rent review hearing. This holds true for the landlords, but the landlords often can hire that kind.

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If you look at the obsolete legal aid system we have, you find that if you happen to be a single parent with one child and earn over \$18,000 a year, you do not qualify for a legal aid certificate and, therefore, cannot go to an organization funded through legal aid, such as Metro Tenants Legal Services, and obtain assistance.

Even if you happen to be below that very low poverty line, but through circumstance you could not find an affordable apartment so you rented in a building where 51 per cent of the tenants earn more than that very low cap, then you are disqualified also.

So you are faced with the situation that unless you have a very good volunteer, an accountant, a lawyer or an MPP who has studied the situation in great detail, you have virtually no representation on what is a very complicated and hard-to-understand act.

Let me give an example of the kind of problem an MPP like myself has faced when I have tried to represent tenants using this piece of legislation.

In the case of one building, 40 Panorama Court—it happens to be a multiple-unit residential building; it is registered as a condominium under the Planning Act—the landlord having made an application, having put in the file, I went down to ask for a copy of the file. Instead, the file has been withdrawn temporarily and four crates of materials brought back to the rent review office. He is applying under every shareholder under every condominium unit.

It is little wonder that a tenant is confused. It is little wonder that the legal aid services, even if they are able to represent these people, cannot cope with the volume. It is little wonder that the people in the rent review offices, who are genuinely trying to work hard and cope with the system, are unable to do so as a result of the bureaucracy created by this abominable piece of legislation.

As an MPP who has represented thousands of tenants at rent review, I suggest also that what is missing from this act, that at least existed in the old act, is a kind of dynamic that works to the advantage of both the tenant and the landlord.

Under the old system the tenants or their representatives, myself, would gather there and we would have the landlord or his representative on the other side of the desk. We would be able to ask questions to bring out facts about the building. There was a kind of group dynamic that, in many cases, was useful for the landlord because he found out about what was going on in his building and useful for the tenants because

they could see where the money was actually being spent.

Under the new bureaucratic system, instead, a person like myself, or a tenant going in to represent himself or other tenants, is faced with a file in which the landlord makes a series of projections as to his capital expenditures, if he has had a lot of capital expenditures, or as to his losses if he happens to be filing under other items.

I, then, must prepare a written report questioning the fact that he has not provided adequate mortgage statements or adequate receipts. He, in turn, after reading this two-, three-, five- or 10-page document that I prepared on behalf of the tenants, prepares another two-, three-, five- or 10-page document in response.

The average tenant, I suggest, is not in a position to cope with that kind of system. So, then, we have a system which is the worst of all worlds. The majority of tenants, because of the legal aid system, do not qualify for any kind of representation. The average tenant, even if fairly intelligent and well organized, is still faced with a very bureaucratic system that frustrates the kind of dynamic that can bring about some understanding between the landlord and tenant. What you have is a system that is simply not working.

Then you have the great Liberal programs. We dealt with one of those Liberal programs to increase housing. Do the members remember the ones for which I tabled the figures in the House and we dealt with them in the public accounts committee?

One family would be subsidized to the amount of \$179,000 per unit, and after 20 years the equity would not even be owned by the taxpayers. For \$179,000, at the time at which this money was being spent, you could have bought two condominiums in the suburbs and given them to the particular family or you could have held on to them and at least after 20 years had some equity. That is the kind of way in which this government is frittering away the taxpayers' money. We have a rent review system that is bureaucratic and unworkable and we still have no initiatives by the government to really create affordable housing for those who cannot afford it.

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: I am very pleased that the member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris) has seen fit to make affordable or unaffordable housing, whatever the term is according to the member for Mississauga South (Mrs. Marland), a topic of special discussion in this House today. I am sure my colleagues will appreciate the fact that as the

Minister of Community and Social Services, I recognize the way in which the lack of affordable housing impacts on the many groups of people we work with.

I want to point out, however, that it was no accident that in the throne speech there were essentially two key issues. There were a lot of other ones, but there were essentially two: education and housing. That was no accident. It was intended to send out a very clear signal that as far as this government is concerned, these two issues must be dealt with. These two issues impact upon the people of this province in a very particular way.

I also point out to my honourable colleagues that when the Premier of this province was choosing his cabinet, it was no accident that he picked the member for Oakwood (Ms. Hošek) to be his Minister of Housing. She is a member who has demonstrated by her own track record as a social activist, as an academic and as a businesswoman that she knows how to get the job done. Her record speaks for itself. That member, that minister, is going to get this job done as well.

I indicated that, as the Minister of Community and Social Services, I was particularly interested in this topic because it impacts so on the client groups that my ministry works with and it is for that reason that over the past two years, and for subsequent years, I have worked more closely with the Ministry of Housing than any other ministry of this government.

I want to share with my colleagues that both the previous Minister of Housing and this Minister of Housing have reciprocated. It has already been brought to your attention that for the first time in the history of the government of Ontario, the Minister of Housing is now a member of the social policy committee. The Minister of Housing in this province has recognized the social dimension of housing as well as the economic dimension of housing, and with that I am delighted.

My honourable colleague the member for Markham (Mr. Cousens) has already made an impressive statement of the need. He has brought to our attention the impact upon families in this province of a lack of affordable housing; the impact on a family spending far too much of its resources on rent and having so little left for other things; the impact on families that can lead to abuse, that can lead to teen-age runaways; the impact on families that breaks down the stability that is so important for families to do the kinds of jobs they need to do, to be the foundation of our

society, to provide stability for their children and for their communities.

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We are all aware of that, but let me plead with my colleagues on the opposition benches. If they truly believe that, if they truly believe in the importance of housing in this province, if they truly believe in the priority it should get, then I hope we are going to continue to see that recognition over the next months and years as in fact we do allocate more resources to that.

Keep in mind, as each member knows from his own experience in this House, some of them as former ministers of government, that resources have to be allocated on a priority basis. When we make those kinds of determinations, we are going to be looking for their support.

I want to say very clearly that I disagree very strongly with my colleague the member for Mississauga South, and I wish she were here, in terms of the need to reduce restrictive zoning that exists in so many of our municipalities.

There are many families in this province that start out unable to acquire a home of their own. That has always been true here. I remember when my family started out, and I suspect there are many others on both sides of the House who had the same experience. Initially you share a house with someone else. Often when you get your own first home you share it with somebody else. There is nothing new in that. That has been going on for many years. I could go back 35 years in my own personal experience.

What really annoys me and I hope annoys many of my colleagues is people in communities and neighbourhoods who say: "I do not want that to happen in my neighbourhood. I have my home, I have my roof over my head, but I am not prepared to allow that to take place. I am not prepared to have one of my neighbours use the second floor of a two-storey home or use the basement apartment to supply housing to another family."

I think if there is one thing we could all do in terms of attitude formation in all our communities, it is to drive home the point that everyone deserves a decent place to live. For many people, if they are going to acquire that, they have to be able to get lower-rent facilities so they can save money. That has already been mentioned by one member—the member for Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston), I believe it was—and I think also the member for Oshawa indicated how difficult it is to get the number of dollars together to put a down payment on a home.

That is partially our responsibility, all of our responsibility and each of our neighbours' and each of our communities'. We have to eliminate or reduce this kind of restrictive zoning that prohibits that from happening.

I want to share with my colleagues the fact that despite all the problems, despite the need, things are being done. This government has committed itself, in co-operation with the federal government and beginning in 1986, again in 1987 and continuing to 1992, to build 6,700 units of nonprofit housing every single year, and a minimum of 10 per cent of those would go for special needs. That is why it is of particular interest to me. That is being done; it will continue to be done. That is a federal-provincial program.

This government has also committed itself to Project 3000, whereby 3,000 units will be built, totally financed by this provincial government, for special needs housing. In the first allocation of 1,000, clients of my ministry got 400. In the second allocation of 2,000, clients of my ministry got 1,800. I would say that is a pretty good indication as to where the priorities lie.

Members will know that in the rate increases I have announced for my ministry, shelter subsidies have been on every single one of them in a substantial way. We have much more than matched the rise of the cost of living or inflation. In September 1986, an additional \$25 million was put into that program alone.

Today, clients of my ministry have available to them an additional \$100 a month because of the increased shelter subsidy we built into that particular program. We have involved ourselves in the Ecuhome program, in co-operation with churches in this metropolitan area, whereby they purchase a home, we provide the resources and they provide the supports for the housing. We have co-operated in our ministry with the Ministry of Health to institute the Habitat program for housing and support for former psychiatric patients. We are launching immediately 1,000 units for supported community living for special needs groups in this province. That is already beginning right now.

It has already been drawn to members' attention that \$1.5 million has been allocated to renovate homes for people who are disabled. I certainly take to heart the comments that it may not be operational as well as it should be, and I give my commitment to work with my colleague in the Ministry of Housing to see to it that it is.

My own ministry provides \$2 million every winter for short-term emergency hostel housing. That is not the basic need; I am not arguing for

that. People need permanent housing, but when they are on the street without a place to go, we are prepared to move in and to help, and we will continue to do that this winter as well.

The need is great; it is recognized by all, but we are working at it.

Mr. Jackson: I am pleased to participate in this afternoon's debate.

At the outset, I would like to say to the new minister and to this government that the issues involved in the housing crisis in Ontario today are not new. First, the government has had two and a half years to deal with them. They are not a new government. Two and a half years ago they were a new government.

I was pleased when I first heard that the member for Oakwood had assumed the responsibility for this most difficult portfolio upon arriving here at Queen's Park. What I had understood about the minister in her private sector experience was that she had the necessary academic depth to understand this problem and she clearly had the social conscience in which to frame that academic understanding, and that she herself had the capacity to provide what was new and what was needed for this two-and-a-half-year-old government.

That is why I sat with some disappointment yesterday to witness her make the mistake that all politicians make: She got tied down to a figure. It is the worst thing we can do in the House. We got tied down to a figure of 102,000.

I listened with great interest to my colleague the member for Kitchener-Wilmot who, as a veteran, quite appropriately indicated about allocated resources. He talked about "committed to build" and about "projected achievements." He was very careful. He is committing dollars. He will not tell us the numbers of keys that we have handed over to tenants in Ontario in the last two and a half years. No speaker from the government has advised that, in the first year of its ambitious housing programs, they underspent by 20 per cent, that they undertargeted by 30 per cent in their second year of operation. Now, either the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) of this province made a decision in cabinet that housing was not a priority, or there is insufficient uptake so that there is insufficient support on the part of the public sector in order to participate in the programs of this government.

Now, from where I sit, it is clear that the minister has an opportunity to bring her skills to bear in this ministry, which is in a considerable amount of difficulty. Now, when I had to leave the Legislature to go to my office, we are all

provided with short-circuit TVs in our rooms and I was able to watch her speech.

1700

Mr. Reville: Short-circuited?

Mr. Jackson: Yes, short-circuit.

Mr. Breaugh: The one that I got works.

Mr. Jackson: Yes, well, mine works. The member should come and listen to it.

I watched with interest as the minister read extensive notes, prepared for her by her ministerial staff, with respect to the old government's party line on this subject. We are still looking for some new contribution from her as minister. It is unfortunate that she has been brought into this debate so early without having been given an opportunity to examine some of the facts that exist with respect to her ministry.

It is understandable because we, as politicians, generally tend to make mistakes. We generally try to overreact to a crisis before we understand its real nature.

Mr. Reville: Is this a how-to lecture?

Mr. Jackson: How to? Well, quite frankly—

Hon. Mr. Bradley: Are you still opposed to rent control? You voted against it.

Mr. Jackson: This House is quite familiar with the fact that I did not support Bill 51. No member of the Legislature relishes departing from his party's position on any item, but I felt so convinced and so strong that this bill was unworkable and unmanageable and that the government's costs for this program would run at large that, in all conscience, I could not do that with the financial resources we are responsible for.

To illustrate, when the Conservatives left office, the rent review program was being operated at an annual expense of approximately \$9 million. In the most recent estimates books that were published, which are now about eight months old, the request was for \$26 million. Supplementary estimates indicate that this government's costs could be in excess of \$30 million.

Today in the House, in response to my question, the minister indicated that her solution would be to hire additional staff. It is quite disconcerting that, when the minister's predecessor assured this House that the cost of implementing this program would not rise above \$12 million from the previous \$9 million, that is the legacy of the bill that her government is so terribly proud of.

As the minister is aware, there are several sections of this bill that have not been pro-

claimed. The chronically depressed rent section has resulted in landlords keeping units off the market, contributing to the fact that we have a low vacancy rate, waiting for the minister to implement the legislation to process orders so that they can free up those units. The section that indicates that orders must be issued 15 days from the first effective date of interest has not been issued. The "cost no longer borne" provision has still not been implemented.

What the government did do, however, was implement an advertising campaign. One of the Orders and Notices questions I presented to the minister's predecessor was how much advertising had been spent when Bill 51 first came out: \$1.3 million were spent in a three-week period to tell the tenants of Ontario how speedy, how efficient, how streamlined and how helpful this bill will be.

Today, in this House, I referred to a document from her own ministry which the minister is reluctant to make public, which states very clearly that in the city of Toronto there are approximately 2,000 buildings—not units, but buildings—waiting for whole building review. They are applications that are sitting within her ministry waiting to be processed. Orders have not been issued.

Of those 2,000, 900 are requests for increases in excess of 25 per cent. We could be talking of as many as 60,000 tenants in the city of Toronto who will be faced with increases of that magnitude. According to the legislation—because for pre-1976 buildings all increases are paid retroactively once the orders are issued—some tenants will be paying thousands of dollars in back rent.

I brought to the attention of the minister in the House an individual case, like many, in the riding of Oakville South, the case of Archie and Mary Dodd. Prior to the legislation they were paying 50 per cent of their income as retired pensioners in order to reside in their unit. In fact, with the 33 per cent requested under the guidelines of the government, this rent increase will go to 67 per cent. Now, the people cannot possibly have expected to continue along that course.

What was suggested at the time was that the government start to seriously consider shelter allowance programs for persons in order to narrow that gap, especially in the light of the fact that we have zero vacancy rates in most of the highly urbanized communities in our province.

It has long been a tenet which I hold very dear that when a government provides anything to

members of the public who do not need it, there is always that much less that it can give to those who do need it. Clearly, the universal nature of this program and the costs that are running at large to administer it are going to continue to provide pressure for needy families.

I want to respond to the Minister of Community and Social Services to illustrate how the housing priorities of this government are not necessarily in check. The problem is the limited availability of properly zoned land for affordable housing.

The real, serious question is, is the minister going to be able to find sufficient zoned land to meet her targets? In Burlington we were able to locate a vacant school, which we were going to save by putting in a proposal under the ministry's program. We were bumped by a community college that felt it was more important to expand a community college. It was the last piece of zoned land we had left. If we start today, it will take two to four years for us just to get zoned and approve the land. These are serious problems. When the ministry can say that the community and social service needs and its housing objectives are more important than a community college's need for expansion, when other lands are available, when the government understands those matters, then it will be able to tackle this problem in the manner in which it should be tackled.

Mrs. Grier: I am pleased to have an opportunity to participate in this debate today and to wish the minister well. I think she certainly has been handed a very difficult job by the Premier, and I do not quite share the confidence of the Minister of Community and Social Services that this is one she will be able to accomplish. I have a horrible feeling it is perhaps beyond the capabilities of anyone, given the mess that we have got ourselves into.

As someone who has been a municipal politician longer than I have been a provincial one, I know only too well the resistance that exists in communities to the development of affordable housing. I would like to say to those who today see this as an emergency and necessary for an emergency debate, the resistance in communities to affordable housing is firmly rooted in the kind of housing policies that we saw from the Conservative Party for 40 years in this province. It was the development of enormous high-rise, subsidized buildings to the advantage of the developers, not of the ultimate occupants, that created an adamant resistance on the part of community groups to having subsi-

dized housing or social housing or affordable housing or whatever the euphemism is these days in their communities.

I also know, as a municipal politician, that it is possible to overcome that resistance. I am very proud of the projects that have been built in my riding—nonprofit, co-operative, senior citizens—that did not elicit objections and appeals to the Ontario Municipal Board but that took an enormous amount of time and an enormous amount of community development work. I think now we are perhaps running out of time.

I would agree with the programs and the kinds of comments that have been made about the programs that we have in place. I want to say to the minister that I agree with the member for Oshawa that one of the problems with those programs is the red tape in which they are enmeshed. My own municipality of Etobicoke, as I have indicated, has not been very enthusiastic about providing affordable housing. I was therefore delighted when last March the council applied for a \$20,000 grant from the ministry to prepare a municipal housing statement. That grant was made through Metro and got caught up in its red tape, but was cleared, and went to the Ministry of Housing early last September. It has not yet been approved. When we inquired yesterday, we were told it would be another three weeks before the cheque would be issued. That kind of slow response to a municipality that says, "Let me get on and at least begin to look at my housing needs," is entirely unacceptable.

A lot of the problem we have got ourselves into in this situation has been the approach that governments have taken to the whole question of housing supply.

1710

The Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) said everybody deserves shelter; yet we have for too long regarded shelter not as a right but as a commodity to be provided by the marketplace. In all our discussions, we seem to be assuming that affordable housing will only be provided by the public sector, because we develop programs to help the public sector subsidize and provide affordable housing, but we leave to the private sector the unfettered right to build luxury and profitable housing. Until we realize that the private sector, as long as it is the sector that is constructing the housing, has to be restrained in the kind of housing it is building, we are not going to affect the supply.

The market and the supply-and-demand forces of housing were recognized not to be working back in the early 1970s and so government

intervened. It intervened by rent control. It was essential and it was necessary. I have heard all the comments about how it is not working. The point I want to make is that, on its own, that is not enough. We intervened in the marketplace for tenants; we did nothing in the marketplace about the provision of the supply.

We hear there are no sites, that there is no zoning, that it takes a long time. Yet we see all around us in the city of Metropolitan Toronto housing being built, but at a price that most people cannot afford to pay.

I find it really ironic that in my own area there is land waiting for housing to be built but it is considered that the land is too expensive and that only luxury housing can be built on it. The reason it is so expensive is that it is near the lake and there are beautiful parks that have been created in the lake by lakefill at public expense. We have by that public investment enhanced these sites along our waterfront to the point where the only people who now want to build on them or say they can afford to build on them are those who want to build luxury condominiums.

The minister said she wished to work with municipalities to ensure that 25 per cent of the housing is affordable—a very laudable sentiment—but the reality is that the mechanics of doing that are very difficult. If somebody owns the property and applies for a rezoning, the municipality has not in the past and is unlikely in the future to say, "You can only get your rezoning and therefore enhance the value of that land even more if you put some affordable housing on it."

I want to suggest to the minister that there is a tool at her disposal perhaps to begin to do that which has not been used by many of her predecessors. In 1983, we got a new Planning Act in this province. Part of that Planning Act is the possibility of having Planning Act policy statements which send a very clear message to the Ontario Municipal Board, to the municipalities and I think to the development industry as to the kind of policy the province has.

Let me read to the minister the introduction to that act and to the book of policy statements which was provided to all of us last year.

It says: "Planning, by its nature, involves the resolution of conflicts between competing demands for land and resources. A municipality must therefore be aware of the objectives of other levels of government in order to establish a firm basis for its own planning policies. For some time, municipalities have called for a clearer indication of provincial policies in matters affecting local planning, and section 3 of the

Planning Act, 1983, enables this to be done through the issuance of policy statements."

A policy statement under that provision that clearly laid out the desires of the Minister of Housing to see affordable housing included in any approvals given by the municipality would send the kind of strong signal I think needs to be sent.

I have come to that conclusion reluctantly, as a municipal and community activist who believes very strongly that the community and the residents have to be involved in the process and have to have a say in what happens to their community, but there are occasions when the interest of the broader community has to override that. I think that if that signal was sent very clearly by the province, that the province felt that had to happen, then it would be easier for those working at the grass-roots level to work in the community and to ensure that we have support for the kind of housing that needs to be built.

To have that done would be a long process—it would require circulation throughout the province—but the fact that it was at least attempted would, I submit, be one way of addressing the problem. Until we look at that problem, we are not really going to come to grips with the whole question of the need for shelter in our major cities and all across this province.

The value of land is incredibly enhanced when a rezoning is approved and that value is often created by the public infrastructure that has been put there. I say to the minister that it is time we began to say to the development industry, "You can no longer skim off the top and only build the profitable and the luxury housing." Until we say to the private sector, "You have a responsibility to meet the shelter needs of the people of this community," we are not really going to come to grips with the problem. I wish the minister well.

Mr. Mahoney: I am interested to note that the people who moved this debate take place must now not consider it an emergency as there are only a few of them left in the House. I believe this government agreed to the debate because we are very concerned.

I believe we have realized the necessity of forming new partnerships in Ontario. These partnerships were recently talked about at a housing conference in the city of Mississauga which my colleague the member for Mississauga South referred to earlier. I would like to read to the House a quote from the Mississauga News in its editorial following the conference. They stated, "A viable solution can only be found if the private sector, all three levels of government,

home owners and homeless individuals work together."

Special needs groups should have the same choices as everyone else in our society. While still a member of city council in Mississauga, I dealt with the establishment of a group home for ex-psychiatric patients in the middle of a rather exclusive residential community and, I might add, after the nomination meeting for Mississauga West and just prior to the election.

The initial reaction in that community was quite predictable. The NIMBY syndrome, which the members all know is "not in my backyard," came through loud and clear. The fears and concerns that came out at the public meeting were very real in the minds of the neighbours. But after working with the community, the Peel Mental Health Association, the city of Mississauga and the region of Peel, we were able to establish a community advisory committee that had the effect of getting that group home under way. It was a tough fight but a successful one that is helping to fulfil this government's commitment to fund special needs housing projects to deinstitutionalize and re-integrate these people into the community.

What this is all about is new partnerships in solving the housing crisis. It was in that regard that the city of Mississauga and the Social Planning Council of Peel cosponsored the housing conference, referred to earlier, that was held last week to address this issue. Both city council and the Social Planning Council of Peel should be congratulated for taking the initiative to hold this conference and showing leadership in this area. It is only the beginning, I would add, of these new partnerships.

The Minister of Housing announced at that conference that the maximum unit prices, the capital funding, has been increased by 10 per cent under a new agreement. This specific announcement will allow Peel Non-Profit Housing Corp. to proceed with the construction of 538 units in the city of Mississauga. They will put these projects out for bids to the private sector. That is partnership and that, I submit, is leadership.

Here we have the provincial government agreeing to increase the funding, thereby allowing a public nonprofit housing corporation to enter into agreements with the private sector and then to work with the community and the local municipality to bring on stream over 500 units into that community.

What we need to do is educate the community, whether it be for family projects, senior citizens,

ex-psychiatric patients or other special needs groups. We need to change, I submit, the NIMBY syndrome to what was referred to at the conference as the ALIMBY syndrome. That stands for "a little in my backyard," not an easy transition but vital if we are to be successful in forming these new partnerships.

1720

The public's fear of the unknown is one of the main obstacles in providing public housing for the disabled, senior citizens, youth offenders or ex-psychiatric patients. We must work to change this fear to understanding, tolerance and compassion from the community.

This government is committed, in my opinion, to more private nonprofit and public nonprofit funding. Our other programs have been outlined by the minister, by the throne speech and by my colleagues here today, so I will not dwell on them.

Another aspect of new partnerships in housing must come from the private sector and the municipalities. We must work with these people to review restrictive bylaws which have been referred to here earlier. What is wrong, I ask, with a basement apartment? What is wrong with renting a room out to a student? Obviously, the neighbourhoods do not want to be converted to rooming and boarding houses, as referred to by the member for Mississauga South, that would lead to parking and congestion problems.

On the other hand, we must ask municipalities to enter into some of these new partnerships which I have spoken of to intensify housing and occupancy densities within acceptable guidelines in the community and to provide more housing within existing housing stock. This government, I believe, is committed to that process.

I believe also that co-operation between the private development industry, the municipal governments, the senior levels of government and the community can forge a partnership with everyone accepting their own responsibility. No one can do it alone. As the minister said earlier, there is no quick fix, but there are initiatives that can and have been taken by this government.

In summary, it is important that we develop understanding and compassion in the community. We must encourage more co-operative land use programs in the municipalities, more flexible bylaws in the municipalities and ensure that everyone is serious and committed to an overall housing strategy. It is interesting, from my perspective, how some honourable members opposite have a convenient memory that only seems to go back to 1985. Prior to that, I am led

to believe, housing problems did not exist. In days gone by, everything was wonderful.

As a nine-year board member of the Peel Non-Profit Housing Corp. and a past president of that organization, I know that is not the case. It is only since 1985 that housing problems have been properly addressed. It is only in recent memory that I have actually heard people such as Keith McCreary, the current president of Peel Non-Profit Housing, and Peter Smith, the commissioner of housing for the region, say things like "I appreciate what this government is doing. It is a step in the right direction, and at last someone is listening to us."

We are working with these people, we are moving in the right direction and I submit to this House that indeed we are listening, unlike many who sat on this side of the House in bygone days. In closing, thank God those days are gone.

Mr. Harris: Madam Speaker, let me offer my congratulations, as I am sure all honourable members have been offering theirs, on the first occasion that we have to speak with you in the chair.

I am delighted to have the opportunity to say a few words. Much of what I would like to have said I said during my five-minute preamble as to why this debate should proceed today and much has been said by some of my colleagues. However, I will see if I can contribute a little bit to the debate.

I am disappointed that the member for Essex—where is he from, the one who was disappointed that I was not here to hear him?

An hon. member: Essex South.

Mr. Harris: Essex South. Unfortunately he only had enough time to be here when he was ordered to be here to speak, but really not here to hear the other speeches.

Mr. Breaugh: What a slippery trick for him to pull.

Mr. Harris: I thought it was a slippery trick for him to pull. I actually was in my office attending to some very important business, but I was watching him on TV and paying attention. If the member for Essex South is watching, I assume he will be here in a minute. I assume that he will be here in about 60 seconds from now to answer for his absence. Otherwise, I will assume he did not care enough to stick around.

Mr. Breaugh: Maybe the reception in the limo is not too good today.

Mr. Harris: That is right. Do they have TV in those limos now?

Hon. Mr. Elston: The member has all his potential supporters in that black book.

Mr. Harris: It is an interesting little black book. I want to tell members, first of all, where I got it. It is a 1988 planning book, a calendar. It comes from the Ontario Mining Association. I got it with the compliments of the former Liberal member for Rainy River, Patrick Reid, who sent me this today. He is an excellent fellow, very labour oriented.

I was flipping through it, and as fate would have it—and I am sure fate drew my attention to it—there are little witticisms at the tops of the pages. This one did catch my eye. I thought I would bring it to members in the chamber today. This is for the first week of February. It says, “The rule on staying alive as a forecaster is to give them a number or give them a date, but never give them both at once.” That was Jane Bryant Quinn. I never heard of her, but I was just sort of flipping through.

I was reading these things and it jumped out at me that shortly I would be going up into the chamber to respond to the member for Essex South and to enter the debate. It jumped out at me right away that this rule of staying alive as a forecaster appears to be the rule of staying alive as a minister or as a government that the Liberals have adopted.

The famous advertisement that appeared in—what was the date? Members opposite have been holding it up for the last couple of days.

Mr. Cousens: August 22.

Mr. Harris: August 22. We have it. We just have not had it here to hold up. It indicated two things. At election time and in a short period of time, one can perhaps afford to pick a date and a number and put them together, providing that date is long beyond when people will be going to the polls. That famous ad said 102,000 units by 1989. Those were the numbers and that was the date. I expect those are the number and the date the people of Ontario feel, unless somebody was lying, that this government made a commitment to, that it campaigned on, that it would try to live up to.

At this very moment, we have the ad.

Mr. Breagh: That crack researcher, the one that is left.

Mr. Harris: That is the problem when you have only one researcher.

We had other news today, since the member mentioned it. We will not be able to hire any more researchers. We are being treated in a rather arrogant fashion, unbecoming to any govern-

ment that has just assumed power with this number of seats. We have been cut back. As combined opposition parties, we learned today that we are to be cut back by \$800,000.

Members will recall that whenever a similar situation occurred, for example, in 1984 in the federal House, Mr. Mulroney at that time was very generous. He said: “Look, you still have the same job to do. You have the same number of committees to cover and the same number of ministers.”

The Acting Speaker: Will the honourable member stick to the topic, please.

Mr. Harris: It really is on topic, because I am short in research dollars as to how to get to it. He said: “You should get the same amount of money, opposition parties, as you had before. In spite of your numbers, you have the same amount of work.” That is not the way of the Premier and that is not the way of the government House leader and Minister of Mines (Mr. Conway).

Anyway, I can now hold this up for the cameras. Is that how I do it? The ad says 102,000 affordable rental units by 1989.

Mr. Reville: They are hooked, Mike.

Mr. Harris: No.

Mr. Reville: Oh.

1730

Mr. Harris: That was OK for the election, but now we have to deal with the reality. We have a cabinet minister, a Premier and a government who really have probably read this book ahead of me and said, “We cannot stay alive if we keep sticking to that.”

This week we heard the date being juggled around. This week it was the date. It was not meant to be two years; it was meant to be three years. In fact, the date that came back to us was 1990. That is not the promise. That is not the commitment. That is not what the Premier intended. Perhaps after the minister took the portfolio she said: “Premier, we cannot do it. I have to start fudging around on some things. I will start with the date, Premier. I will start fudging and say we will slip it up to 1990. Maybe if that flies we will get it up to 1991 and then next week or maybe the week after that we will start playing around somehow with the 102,000 units.”

I guess what disturbs us and the reason for this debate, quite frankly, are three things: the Liberal record, the throne speech inadequacy and the answer to the first question that was asked of the minister yesterday, who indicated that the very same programs they had in place from 1985

to 1987 were going to carry us, through some miracle, to 102,000 affordable rental units by 1989. Here is the record that those programs produced. Let us go through a few.

March 1986: "Housing minister said he would make sure all of the province's homeless have shelter by the end of '87." That was the former minister relying on the programs that were spat back at us today in what I thought was a rather arrogant fashion, particularly for a new minister.

We have maybe six or seven weeks, so that will be solved using the programs that were spat back at us today that the former minister said would solve it. Anybody who believes that really is not paying attention. In fact, the problem not only was bad from 1985 to 1986 when he made that announcement; it is far worse now. The statistics, I think, have been read into the record already and I have so much material to cover that I will not repeat them.

Let me give another one. In December 1985, the Liberals announced a five-year, \$500-million assured housing program, the target being 43,000 new assisted rental units, 32,000 of which would be allocated to social housing. We have had lots of announcements and press releases and impressions that maybe something was happening, but by the end of March 1987, they had allocated funding for about 16,000; they had not built them. There was an allocation—it had not all been taken up—for a target of 16,000, not 43,000, and 5,480 at the most by all predictions could be considered to be rent-geared-to-income, not 32,000. Of course, the numbers are going up and up all the time.

You are enthralled, Madam Speaker. You have not even noticed the clock, so you want to hear more, obviously, and I appreciate it.

The Acting Speaker: The honourable member's time has elapsed.

Mr. Harris: Allow me one little exit line anyway.

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Mr. Harris: I have much more material.

The Acting Speaker: Order; the member for Riverdale.

Mr. Reville: Thank you, and congratulations to you, Madam Speaker, on your appointment. I can understand why you might be mesmerized by the soothing words of the member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris). We often are mesmerized and quite often we never realize that they are not on the topic at all and that is just as well.

I want to offer as well my congratulations to the minister. Like the ever alert member for

Burlington South (Mr. Jackson), I too speculated about the precise reason why the Premier would make the particular appointment that he made and I worry, because I am a kind of worried person, that perhaps there was a tension here. Did government want a star to carry forward a serious response to that housing crisis or in fact did the government want a star to protect the government from the consequences of failure to respond seriously to the housing crisis? I guess the jury is out on that and we will all see.

If I may speak personally for the moment, I do not regret a great deal my reassignment to other critic portfolio duties, first because I have every confidence in my colleague to my left.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: He was good on Dateline Ontario.

Mr. Reville: I have stayed up to watch Dateline Ontario, as I often do, and sometimes see the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley) on there. I am always fascinated by what he has to say, whenever I can figure it out.

The second reason I do not regret a great deal being reassigned to other duties is because I become bone weary at screaming about the housing crisis to a totally uncomprehending government.

There is no question that the government has an array of programs in its arsenal. There is no question, and I say this with sadness, that the piety exhibited by the third party as it discusses the housing crisis is perhaps difficult to swallow, given that in 1985-86, which was the last year for which that now-gone-and-not-lamented government was responsible for delivering housing, it managed the impressive total of 6,254 units.

It is often depressing to me to think that people are becoming aware only now of the emergency in housing. Without wanting to sound too pontifical, although I will take that chance, my career has had a lot to do with the housing crisis, and I began to be involved in these matters in 1972, so the failure of successive governments of different stripes to respond adequately to a crisis that has been developing for many years is shocking, and I do not know why. I will try to figure out why people have allowed those governments to get away with it.

Even now, Mr. Speaker—and congratulations to you on your reappointment—there appears to be among the rhetoric and among the recitation of programs a misunderstanding of what is going to be needed to solve the crisis.

I noted with some amusement that not a peep was uttered about the demise of Renterprise. I think it is totally appropriate for that program to

disappear, because it was a hoax and a boondoggle of massive proportions, but we are still being beaten over the head with the glowing tribute to Project 3000, which is another monumental hoax and which will not in fact deal with very much of the housing crisis, if any part of the housing crisis at all, and in fact is precisely the wrong way to go about providing housing.

This should not be a surprise to the minister, because I am sure she has had a chance to read my speeches and will know that I told the government this was not the way to do it. Project 3000 was in fact a bribe that was paid to the tenants on the Rent Review Advisory Committee so that they would be calm about the other monumental hoax that was visited on unsuspecting tenants, and that was Bill 51.

What Project 3000 is delivering across Ontario is a host of many institutions which require a person to have a label printed on his forehead before he is entitled to housing. I think that is just shocking. I think what should entitle you to housing is the fact of your existence and that you do not have to be an ex-psychiatric patient or a battered woman or a disabled person or elderly or "homeless" in order to get housing; that in fact housing should be the right of everybody. The failure of the senior governments of this country to ever acknowledge that fact or to ever put housing into a sufficient enough priority that there was a real possibility that everybody who needed housing would get it is one of the massive failures of vision on the part of governments both here in Ontario and in Ottawa.

1740

I always regret to hear the former Minister of Housing (Mr. Curling), the current Minister of Housing, or the Minister of Community and Social Services lament municipal resistance to social housing. This is a major copout. There is no question there is resistance to social housing, but the resistance to social housing does not account for its lack. What accounts for the lack of social housing is that the government has never been prepared to provide the money to build it.

Having been through many long, tedious meetings with communities as they resisted, at first, and slowly began to resist less—so that you do build the social housing—I know that the providers of social housing can never get enough units allocated to them and that the real failure here is the failure of government to be really serious about the supply program and by continuing to hang on to what is a vain hope that the private sector will somehow come to the rescue. It will not; it cannot. The private sector

can certainly build housing. It can build fine housing, but it is going to build housing on a profit basis and most of the people in Ontario just cannot afford to pay the ticket.

Ms. Bryden: For \$6-million condominiums.

Mr. Reville: Six-million-dollar condominiums. I looked at a number of them myself but did not buy one.

There are really three pieces to a housing strategy. I will repeat them once again before I fall down from sheer boredom. You have to have policies that protect tenants. We do not. The government has refused to do that. You have to have policies that protect the housing you have. We do not. The government has refused to do that. You have to have policies and programs that will generate nonprofit housing. We do not have adequate policies.

Until this government gets off the pot and stops relying on the private sector to solve this problem for it, stops trying to blame R-1 ratepayers for their meanness and pretend that is the real problem, we are not going to solve this housing crisis and this government will continue to be indicted for a shocking failure towards its citizens by allowing them to freeze on the streets.

It is very popular to talk about homelessness during the winter. People die every single day of the year in this province because they do not have housing and it is not just from exposure to cold; it is the kind of exposure that occurs because you do not have a decent place to live, and somebody hits you on the head with a doorknob some June night because you do not have a place to live. Unless the government really takes a look at its priorities and really puts some muscle behind the rhetoric of its speeches, this housing crisis will deepen.

Mrs. LeBourdais: In providing a brief summation of the eloquent members who have preceded me this afternoon, I would like to assure all members of this House of the steady progress of this government's aggressive strategy in addressing a most basic need of all Ontarians, that of affordable housing.

As a direct result of the assured housing strategy, more than 13,600 units of low- to moderate-cost rental housing were allocated in 1986 and 1987 to municipal, private and co-operative nonprofit housing groups in 92 municipalities under a federal-provincial program. An additional 3,000 units are pledged for 74 municipalities under a special nonprofit housing initiative funded solely by the province. The housing is primarily for disadvantaged persons.

In addition, almost 5,000 new convert-to-rent units have been committed since the beginning of 1986, and landlords of multi-unit projects are now required to offer up to 25 per cent of their units for use by local housing authorities, which also manage the Ontario Housing Corp.

The government has also initiated a low-rise rehabilitation program in which 110 municipalities have signed operating agreements to allow upgrading for more than 9,400 rental units to meet municipal health and building standards, as well as a home renewal program administered by over 700 municipalities to assist home owners to upgrade their homes with loans of up to \$7,500.

With specific regard to home renewal for the disabled, the home renewal program offers home owners interest-free loans of up to \$15,000 to make housing modifications that increase accessibility for a disabled occupant. Under this program home owners have applied for assistance regardless of their incomes. In 1986, some 500 home owners took advantage of this program.

The government believes those measures I have mentioned are just a first step towards addressing this area of ongoing and vital concern. As outlined in the throne speech tabled at the opening of the Legislature on Tuesday, we will continue to directly create and preserve low- and moderately priced housing through such measures as nonprofit housing, conversion to rental, upgrading, modifying and creating an environment conducive to increased investment in new rental housing.

The government realizes that the provision of low- and moderately priced housing must be and will be a continuing concern and a central part of the planning process. We will assist those with moderate incomes to realize their goal of first-time home ownership and to fill in the gap left by the withdrawal of the federal home ownership program with a new Ontario home ownership savings plan to assist young families purchasing their first home.

The government's program is an ambitious one and one planned to meet the pressing demands of the people of this province for affordable housing, with a minister who has the conviction, the determination and the sensitivity to meet this urgent need of people seeking affordable and adequate housing for themselves and their families.

I might say to the member for Nipissing in closing that I have a modicum of sympathy with his need for further research staff. Certainly, if the notes and witticisms from his little black book

today were any indication of the research capabilities, then I might get together with some of my colleagues and suggest to the Premier some assistance. To go on with such witticisms on a debate which he himself has called for on such a major and pressing issue is perhaps appalling.

Mr. Speaker: Are there any other members wishing to participate in the debate?

Mr. Wildman: If there is no one else, as an out-of-town member, I would just like to add a couple of comments in closing in this debate.

I think it is interesting that during the debate we have heard exchanges from both sides, and we have heard some interesting contributions from new members on the government side, rather self-congratulatory. But I hope all of us, particularly those out-of-town members who have not had a great deal of experience in this city, will this evening, if they are still in Toronto and have not yet returned home, take it upon themselves around midnight or 1 a.m. to walk through the park just behind this building or to walk around some of the back streets around Yonge Street and Jarvis and see some of the individuals they might find lying on the street or in the park on a park bench, or some of the kids, some of the runaways, who are living on the streets in this city, and wonder whether the self-congratulations on that side of the House or even, for that matter, the rhetoric on this side of the House have really done anything for any of those people.

I wonder too whether the programs that have been listed on assistance for upgrading of homes for home owners and providing a certain percentage of new units in buildings really have done anything for those people. I submit that perhaps we are all a little too middle-class and a little too comfortable and it is about time we learned a little bit about how the poor live in this city and in this province and perhaps got away from the biblical injunction that they are always with us. It is our job to ensure that the housing needs of those people are met.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Mr. Conway: I would like to indicate the business of the House for the next couple of weeks.

On Monday, November 9, we will hear from the mover and seconder of the speech from the throne.

On Tuesday, November 10, we will have the response to the throne speech from the official opposition.

To allow members to participate in Remembrance Day observances in their constituencies, the House will not sit on either Wednesday, November 11, or Thursday, November 12.

On Monday, November 16, we will hear the throne speech response by the third party and, if time permits, we will commence the private members' contributions to the throne speech debate.

On Tuesday, November 17, and Wednesday, November 18, we will continue with the debate on the speech from the throne, and on Thursday, November 19, we will have throne speech debate in both the morning and the afternoon.

The House adjourned at 5:51 p.m.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS

(130 seats)

First Session, 34th Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. Lincoln M. Alexander, PC, QC

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- | | |
|--|---|
| Adams, Peter (Peterborough L) | Fulton, Hon. Ed , Minister of Transportation
(Scarborough East L) |
| Allen, Richard (Hamilton West NDP) | Furlong, Allan W. (Durham Centre L) |
| Ballinger, William G. (Durham-York L) | Grandmaître, Hon. Bernard C. , Minister of
Revenue (Ottawa East L) |
| Beer, Charles (York North L) | Grier, Ruth A. (Etobicoke-Lakeshore NDP) |
| Black, Kenneth H. (Muskoka-Georgian Bay L) | Haggerty, Ray (Niagara South L) |
| Bossy, Maurice L. (Chatham-Kent L) | Hampton, Howard (Rainy River NDP) |
| Bradley, Hon. James J. , Minister of the
Environment (St. Catharines L) | Harris, Michael D. (Nipissing PC) |
| Brandt, Andrew S. (Sarnia PC) | Hart, Christine E. (York East L) |
| Breaugh, Michael J. (Oshawa NDP) | Henderson, D. James (Etobicoke-Humber L) |
| Brown, Michael A. (Algoma-Manitoulin L) | Hošek, Hon. Chaviva , Minister of Housing
(Oakwood L) |
| Bryden, Marion H. (Beaches-Woodbine NDP) | Jackson, Cameron (Burlington South PC) |
| Callahan, Robert V. (Brampton South L) | Johnson, Jack (Wellington PC) |
| Campbell, Sterling (Sudbury L) | Johnston, Richard F. (Scarborough West NDP) |
| Caplan, Hon. Elinor , Minister of Health
(Orillia L) | Kanter, Ron (St. Andrew-St. Patrick L) |
| Carrothers, Douglas A. (Oakville South L) | Kerrio, Hon. Vincent G. , Minister of Natural
Resources (Niagara Falls L) |
| Charlton, Brian A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP) | Keyes, Kenneth A. (Kingston and the Islands L) |
| Chiarelli, Robert (Ottawa West L) | Kozyra, Taras B. (Port Arthur L) |
| Cleary, John C. (Cornwall L) | Kwinter, Hon. Monte , Minister of Industry,
Trade and Technology (Wilson Heights L) |
| Collins, Shirley (Wentworth East L) | Laughren, Floyd (Nickel Belt NDP) |
| Conway, Hon. Sean G. , Minister of Mines
(Renfrew North L) | LeBourdais, Linda (Etobicoke West L) |
| Cooke, David R. (Kitchener L) | Leone, Laureano (Downsview L) |
| Cooke, David S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP) | Lipsett, Ron (Grey L) |
| Cordiano, Joseph (Lawrence L) | Lupusella, Tony (Dovercourt L) |
| Cousens, W. Donald (Markham PC) | MacDonald, Keith (Prince Edward-Lennox L) |
| Cureatz, Sam L. (Durham East PC) | Mackenzie, Bob (Hamilton East NDP) |
| Curling, Hon. Alvin , Minister of Skills
Development (Scarborough North L) | Mahoney, Steven W. (Mississauga West L) |
| Daigeler, Hans (Nepean L) | Mancini, Hon. Remo , Minister without Port-
folio (Essex South L) |
| Dietsch, Michael M. (St. Catharines-Brock L) | Marland, Margaret (Mississauga South PC) |
| Eakins, Hon. John F. , Minister of Municipal
Affairs (Victoria-Haliburton L) | Martel, Shelley (Sudbury East NDP) |
| Edighoffer, Hon. Hugh A. , Speaker (Perth L) | Matrundola, Gino (Willowdale L) |
| Elliot, R. Walter (Halton North L) | McCague, George R. (Simcoe West PC) |
| Elston, Hon. Murray J. , Chairman of the
Management Board of Cabinet (Bruce L) | McClelland, Carman (Brampton North L) |
| Epp, Herbert A. (Waterloo North L) | McGuigan, James F. (Essex-Kent L) |
| Eves, Ernie L. (Parry Sound PC) | McGuinty, Dalton J. (Ottawa South L) |
| Farnan, Michael (Cambridge NDP) | McLean, Allan K. (Simcoe East PC) |
| Faubert, Frank (Scarborough-Ellesmere L) | McLeod, Hon. Lyn , Minister of Colleges and
Universities (Fort William L) |
| Fawcett, Joan M. (Northumberland L) | Miclash, Frank (Kenora L) |
| Ferraro, Rick E. (Guelph L) | Miller, Gordon I. (Norfolk L) |
| Fleet, David (High Park-Swansea L) | Morin, Gilles E. (Carleton East L) |
| Fontaine, Hon. René , Minister of Northern
Development (Cochrane North L) | Morin-Strom, Karl E. (Sault Ste. Marie NDP) |

Munro, Hon. Lily O., Minister of Culture and Communications (Hamilton Centre L)

Neumann, David E. (Brantford L)

Nicholas, Cindy (Scarborough Centre L)

Nixon, J. Bradford (York Mills L)

Nixon, Hon. Robert F., Deputy Premier, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics and Minister of Financial Institutions (Brant-Haldimand L)

Offer, Steven (Mississauga North L)

O'Neil, Hon. Hugh P., Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Quinte L)

O'Neill, Yvonne (Ottawa-Rideau L)

Owen, Bruce (Simcoe Centre L)

Patten, Hon. Richard, Minister of Government Services (Ottawa Centre L)

Pelissero, Harry E. (Lincoln L)

Peterson, Hon. David R., Premier and President of the Council and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (London Centre L)

Philp, Ed (Etobicoke-Rexdale NDP)

Phillips, Hon. Gerry, Minister of Citizenship (Scarborough-Agincourt L)

Poirier, Jean, Deputy Speaker and Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House (Prescott and Russell L)

Pollock, Jim (Hastings-Peterborough PC)

Polsinelli, Claudio (Yorkview L)

Poole, Dianne (Eglinton L)

Pope, Alan W. (Cochrane South PC)

Pouliot, Gilles (Lake Nipigon NDP)

Rae, Bob (York South NDP)

Ramsay, Hon. David, Minister of Correctional Services (Timiskaming L)

Ray, Michael C. (Windsor-Walkerville L)

Reville, David (Riverdale NDP)

Reycraft, Douglas R. (Middlesex L)

Riddell, Hon. Jack, Minister of Agriculture and Food (Huron L)

Roberts, Marietta L. D., Deputy Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House (Elgin L)

Runciman, Robert W. (Leeds-Grenville PC)

Ruprecht, Tony (Parkdale L)

Scott, Hon. Ian G., Attorney General (St. George-St. David L) Smith, David W. (Lambton L)

Smith, Hon. E. Joan, Solicitor General (London South L)

Sola, John (Mississauga East L)

Sorbara, Hon. Gregory S., Minister of Labour (York Centre L)

South, Larry (Frontenac-Addington L)

Sterling, Norman W. (Carleton PC)

Stoner, Norah (Durham West L)

Sullivan, Barbara (Halton Centre L)

Swart, Mel (Welland-Thorold NDP)

Sweeney, Hon. John, Minister of Community and Social Services (Kitchener-Wilmot L)

Tatham, Charlie (Oxford L)

Van Horne, Ronald G. (London North L)

Velshi, Murad (Don Mills L)

Villeneuve, Noble (Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry PC)

Ward, Hon. Christopher C., Minister of Education (Wentworth North L)

Wildman, Bud (Algoma NDP)

Wilson, Hon. Mavis, Minister without Portfolio (Dufferin-Peel L)

Wiseman, Douglas J. (Lanark-Renfrew PC)

Wong, Hon. Robert C., Minister of Energy (Fort York L)

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No. 4

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario



First Session, 34th Parliament

Monday, November 9, 1987

Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer

Clerk of the House: Claude L. DesRosiers

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Monday, November 9, 1987

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

Prayers.

TRADE WITH UNITED STATES

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: Mr. Speaker, on a point of personal privilege: On Thursday, November 5, 1987, in answer to a question from the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. B. Rae), I may have unintentionally given the impression that Ontario speaks for the country on the free trade issue.

I in no way intended to suggest that Ontario speaks for any other province or the nation, and I wish to apologize for any misunderstanding. I want to state clearly that if the free trade agreement adversely affects any part of Canada, it affects all Canadians.

Mr. Speaker: I would consider that a point of personal explanation.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

FEDERAL IMMIGRATION LEGISLATION

Mr. Philip: Last week an American couple who were crossing the Peace Bridge near Buffalo were detained by Canadian immigration officials, interrogated and threatened with a \$5,000 fine. What had they done? They had attempted to enter Canada with a young Guatemalan who wanted to claim refugee status.

What is distressing about this incident is that they had done nothing wrong, nor had they done anything illegal. It is frightening, however, that what they were doing will become illegal when the federal government's Bill C-84 becomes law in January.

Last week's incident makes it clear that Bill C-84 is designed to intimidate those who would work to assist people seeking refugee status in Canada. These groups, many of them church-based, have in the past been able to save hundreds of people from torture and, indeed, death at the hands of oppressive regimes. Last week's incident makes it clear that Bill C-84 is a threat to the humanitarian efforts of church and civil liberty groups in this country in their attempt to save lives of people.

I invite all members of the House to join with me in condemning the Mulroney government's real agenda in Bill C-84.

CONFERENCE ON NORTHERN BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Mr. Harris: Last week the Liberal government paid lipservice to northern Ontario in its throne speech with more studies, more commitments and a rehash of existing programs, but it did announce the Premier's Conference on Northern Business and Entrepreneurship in Thunder Bay later this month, a fine concept unless you are from northeastern Ontario. It is free. All you need to do is pay your airfare, hotel room and meals. So what is \$1,000? The Premier (Mr. Peterson) wants to hear your views.

Of course, the agenda says the Premier is doing most of the talking. But that is OK; you will be meeting with other small business people and entrepreneurs, or will you? Like you, they will have to take two or three days off work, four if from northeastern Ontario. But you really cannot afford the time, the money and the extra staff. Who can? Well, the Premier, his ministers and their staff will be there. The taxpayer will foot that bill. Development councils, colleges and universities will be there; taxpayers foot their bill. Municipal councils will be there; we are footing those bills. A load of consultants and civil servants will be there; I do not have to have to tell members who is footing their bill.

It is a fine concept, this Conference on Northern Business and Entrepreneurship. It is too bad northern business people and entrepreneurs, those who pay the taxes, create the jobs and look for new ways to create more, will not be there. The small businessman, the tourist operator, the farmer, the true entrepreneur cannot afford to go to the Premier's conference. It is the same people who already have the input who will be there, but the Premier will send them a copy of the report, I am sure, bound in red, compliments of the taxpayer.

WINE INDUSTRY

Mr. Dietsch: On Tuesday, November 3, a number of farmers from my riding of St. Catharines-Brock joined in a demonstration on the lawn at Queen's Park to voice their concerns with the free trade agreement. I would like to commend them for expressing their concerns with the free trade agreement.

I am concerned about an article in the Sunday Star entitled "Ontario Wineries 'Encouraged' by Hint of Free Trade Bail-Outs." It appears that the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Clark, has given his assurances that the wine industry will somehow be saved from the negative impact of a free trade agreement. His sentiments are admirable; however, I feel he is ignoring the difficulties facing the growers. The wine industry and the growers have been united in their opposition to this agreement. I hope that the honourable Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Clark, is not attempting to divide and conquer.

I know the Premier (Mr. Peterson) and the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell) are concerned with the devastating problems free trade will create for the tender fruit industry as well as the grape and wine industry. This government is committed to examining all the possibilities available to protect the agricultural community and the wine industry.

AUTO PACT

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Last Friday I called a local radio station in Windsor, CKWW, and asked if I could have a copy of a transcript of the radio ads that were presented on behalf of the member for Windsor-Sandwich (Mr. Wrye) in the last provincial election on free trade. It indicated that I could get a copy of those ads and that I could pick them up.

I showed up at the local radio station and was instead given the following letter:

"I am afraid we were a little premature in promising you a copy of Bill Wrye's free trade and auto pact message. We contacted Mr. Wrye's office in Toronto and we were instructed not to release the message. Our instructions came from Mr. Vic Phillips, Bill Wrye's communications officer.

"Sorry for the inconvenience this has undoubtedly caused you."

I would like to say that Mr. Phillips contacted us today and did give us the ad. I would therefore like to read the ad into the record:

"Hello, I am Bill Wrye. One in six jobs in Ontario depends on the auto industry. In Windsor the number is far higher. We must protect the auto pact that has served us so well. The Peterson team will not accept any free trade deal that guts the auto pact. We need your support to protect jobs in Windsor."

I say to the Liberal government, keep the promise.

TRADE WITH UNITED STATES

Mr. Sterling: Today we learned from media reports of another government report about the possible loss of 100,000 jobs for women in our service sector as a result of a free trade agreement with the United States. It should not be suspect, however, that the Premier only last week specifically mentioned women in the service sector as being a potential victim of free trade and then the following week a leaked report confirms his suspicions.

Why cannot we deal with the facts, all the facts? Does this government feel our public will be overwhelmed if confronted with conclusions from both sides of the issue and left to decide the facts for themselves? This is the second report the government has released on free trade. While the government offers every negative aspect of free trade, where are the positive aspects listed?

Where are the answers to the questions of how many jobs will be created by free trade, how many jobs will be lost without free trade, how many jobs will not be created without free trade? I am sure the public would be interested in the answers to these questions as well. Heaven forbid that officials may discover that some benefit may be derived for Ontario from a free trade agreement with the United States if just a few more questions were asked.

1340

TONY AMERY

Mr. Carrothers: I would like to draw the attention of the members of this House to the accomplishments of a resident of the town of Oakville, Tony Amery. Recently, Mr. Amery was given the chairman's award by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce. This was the first time this award was given; it is to be given each year by the chamber in recognition of outstanding contributions as a chamber volunteer.

Mr. Amery, who is chief economist for DuPont Canada, has served on chamber committees for the past 15 years. He is at present chairman of the chamber's economic policy committee, his third term in that post. Mr. Amery also serves on the national board of directors of the chamber. In the past, he has served on many financial and executive committees of the chamber, particularly the Canada-US trade relations committee.

I ask that the members join me in congratulating Mr. Amery on his award and thanking him for his many years of service.

ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME

Mr. R. F. Johnston: There has been much ado in the education community in other provinces around the problems of acquired immune deficiency syndrome, most notably recently in Nova Scotia. When recent headlines have said that testing for AIDS in the private schools in this province seems to be something that is starting, it is of great concern to me, as the Education critic for this party, that we have not seen any statements from ministers of the crown about their opinions on this matter.

We have heard nothing from the new minister responsible for human rights in Ontario in terms of the obvious discrimination that would ensue against any young person being found to have the AIDS virus. We have heard nothing from the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan) in terms of the unacceptability of this process in Ontario and we have heard nothing from the Minister of Education (Mr. Ward). I say it is time we had some kind of joint statement from these gentlemen and that lady.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

CENTRES OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Hon. Mrs. McLeod: I am pleased to announce today the creation of six centres of entrepreneurship at Ontario post-secondary institutions. This initiative was undertaken on the recommendation of the Premier's Council, which was established with a mandate to "champion entrepreneurship and innovation across the province."

The council's subcommittee on entrepreneurship proposed a program of chairs or centres of entrepreneurship sponsored by government and supported by industry which would provide a focal point for activities related to entrepreneurship in colleges and universities, develop curriculum materials, provide training courses for teachers and guidance counsellors and stimulate research and the dissemination of results.

The centres will also sponsor visits by practising entrepreneurs to share their experiences with students and support the work of the campus-based innovation centres by inviting experts to review business plans and advise budding entrepreneurs.

Twenty-four proposals were received from post-secondary institutions in response to the request for proposals. Eleven of these came from colleges of applied arts and technology, seven from the universities and six were joint submis-

sions. The number of responses and the quality of the proposals clearly showed the interest of the colleges and universities in developing programs that will stimulate the awareness and teaching of entrepreneurship.

An 11-member selection panel was established under the chairmanship of Donald Webster, chairman of Helix Investments Ltd., to evaluate the proposals and make recommendations to the Premier's Council. The panel comprised respected members of the Ontario business community and well-known educators from Canada and the United States specializing in entrepreneurship.

The proposals chosen for the establishment of the first six centres of entrepreneurship are from the following: York University; Ryerson Polytechnical Institute; Lakehead University and Confederation College; Queen's University with St. Lawrence College and Loyalist College; Canadore College with Nipissing University College; and Centennial College.

Each of the centres will receive a government grant of up to \$150,000 per annum provided that contributions of \$50,000 from the business sector are received. Funding is guaranteed for four years of operation provided the centre's performance is satisfactory.

The Centres of Entrepreneurship Advisory Committee will be established to monitor the progress and performance of the centres.

I want to thank all those who have contributed their time, energy and creativity to make the introduction of this program a success, either by preparing a submission or participating in the selection process. I would also like to encourage those whose proposals were not selected to continue developing their activities in entrepreneurship education by seeking support from other sources and remaining in contact with the centres.

The centres of entrepreneurship are part of a series of government initiatives intended to create in Ontario an environment which is conducive to entrepreneurial activity. It is an innovative concept which supports other measures already announced to encourage the development of research and technology transfer and to ensure that Ontario remains in the forefront of economic leadership and technological innovation.

TRADE WITH UNITED STATES

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I am tabling in the Legislature today a document that examines the

proposed free trade agreement and the impact it will have on many working women in Ontario.

I am taking this opportunity to share the findings of this document, which was prepared by the Ontario women's directorate, with the honourable members and with the Ontario public. It represents a dimension of this contentious issue that must be addressed; that is, the economic implications that the proposed free trade agreement holds for many Ontario women who work in trade-sensitive jobs.

Certain industries within the manufacturing sector have been identified as being vulnerable to negative impacts as a result of the free trade agreement. These include clothing, textiles and footwear. These high-risk industries employ over 44 per cent of the women who work in the manufacturing sector. This represents almost 100,000 Ontario working women.

En tant que ministre délégué à la Condition féminine, j'exprime mon inquiétude à l'égard des répercussions négatives qu'aura manifestement l'accord du libre-échange sur une partie importante de la main-d'oeuvre féminine de l'Ontario.

Our government has confirmed its commitment to open dialogue between the government and the Ontario people on this free trade agreement. In order to make that process work, we are determined to share information with the public. I believe the document I present today makes a valuable contribution towards better informing all of us on an issue that concerns all of us.

I would like to note that copies of the agreement will be available to all members of this House through the House mail system.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS 1986-87

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I am pleased to table in the House later today all three volumes of the Public Accounts of Ontario for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1987. This is the earliest release date ever achieved for the complete reporting of Ontario's public accounts, for which I thank my own staff and the staff of all government ministries. The Office of the Provincial Auditor also is to be commended for its high standards of work and co-operation.

Volume 1 contains a summary of the audited financial statement of the province as well as the details for each ministry. Volume 2 presents the financial statements of selected crown corporations, boards and commissions. Volume 3 lists expenditures on salaries, travel expenses and other payments over specified levels. That is the

one I commend to the attention of all new members.

I wish to point out that all three volumes are available in both English and French.

RESPONSES

CENTRES OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, you can understand how, personally, I am excited about the centres for entrepreneurship in the universities of our province. As one of the great proponents of free enterprise on this side of the House, I think it is splendid. However, I find it somewhat ironic and I find it hard to get my tongue out of my cheek at this point, as a matter of fact, to notice that this is the first major statement—the other just being a reiteration of a policy from the election—the minister has chosen to make.

I think it speaks to a real lack of understanding about what the real problems of our university system are at this point and I cannot exactly get excited about the notion of setting up what I think will be a very short-term kind of involvement—I hope it will be at the university level—of this kind of notion of business involvement.

1350

The member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren) was teasing another member from the Sudbury area about the fact there is nothing here for Laurentian, as if Paul Desmarais, that great \$2-million donor recently to that university, is now being told that is no centre for entrepreneurship. This is a terrible slap at Mr. Desmarais. I am sure he is as disappointed as the member for Nickel Belt must be that there is going to be no centre for entrepreneurship in Laurentian.

The member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. D. S. Cooke) has also been lamenting the fact that there is not going to be a centre in southwestern Ontario. We are shattered by the spottiness of this announcement, Mr. Speaker, and I am sure you, being a member from southwestern Ontario, are deeply hurt that no centre has been brought to any area near your riding. On your behalf, I would like to express my disappointment.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS 1986-87

Mr. B. Rae: First, I do want to respond in substance to the comments by the Minister of Labour (Mr. Sorbara), the minister responsible for women's issues, but I am sure we all want to congratulate the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) for this very early publication of the public accounts. I suppose one could say it is one of the miracles of

microwave that it takes a shorter time to produce these books in the kitchen than at other times, but we appreciate very much the efforts to produce these and I am sure we will all look forward to reading these tonight.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I am waving the book.

Mr. B. Rae: Mme Benoit would have nothing to teach the Treasurer.

TRADE WITH UNITED STATES

Mr. B. Rae: With respect to the comments of the Minister of Labour, I think we all are aware of this report because we have read about it in the *Toronto Star*, where the report was leaked as a matter of course, and I think we can now all expect that every report coming from the government in this area will no doubt be carefully stage-managed so that, instead of having a mere one day's news on a report, we will now have four or five dribs and drabs, carefully stage-managed productions from the Minister of Labour and other cabinet ministers. That is par for the course, particularly with this kind of government.

But let me say to the minister that the critical question really is not simply the information the government is providing—which in its own right is useful enough and certainly points to a problem which we in this party have been talking about for some time—the critical question is: What is the government going to do?

If I may say so, the Premier (Mr. Peterson) can give as many speeches as he wants all over Canada. He can get up in the House and make all kinds of statements, he can give a ringing throne speech—or he might have done, but he did not—but he still has to answer this question: What is he going to do? That is the critical question. That is the question the government cannot answer and that is the question it has to answer.

Mr. Jackson: At the outset, I would like to thank the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Mr. Kwinter) for his clarification this afternoon but, quite frankly, it was not until after the Premier had left the province and begun his speaking engagements that it became abundantly clear that this government could not speak for the rest of Canada.

CENTRES OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Mr. Jackson: I would also like to compliment the Minister of Colleges and Universities (Mrs. McLeod) on her maiden statement. Unlike my colleague in the New Democratic Party, I do meet this announcement with a certain degree of appreciation. I do so as a member of the Miller

government, which first announced the program, and I am pleased this government has seen fit to follow through with it.

It is unfortunate that the minister has not seen fit to mention those entrepreneurs in Ontario, such as the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, which have been extensively promoting this program and have done a considerable amount of work in creating linkages with our community colleges and our universities. Perhaps that was an oversight on behalf of the minister.

We should also mention that Queen's University has already had this program in place for some years. We are pleased they have been included on the rather short list of those institutions which are eligible for the funding.

Of course, we join the minister in commending all the colleges for the quality of their presentations, but unfortunately there were 18 which were denied, and she has not left any window open as to what the prospects for expansion of this program will be over the next four years. A commitment of \$150,000 seems rather meagre. I think if she checks with Mr. Grafstein, she will find out that cannot buy even a single credible poll on any issue for her government, let alone acquire the services of a Liberal consultant. Yet she would suggest that each of those colleges and institutions she announced today in the House would be able to put on the kinds of programs required for those kinds of dollars.

I would hope that, as the minister expects to inspire the young people of this province to work with their creative minds and their sense of vision in our colleges and universities, she would also be mindful of the fact that we require government legislation which still continues to create an environment for those graduates to use those skills and to help contribute to the economy of this province.

Now to the Minister of Labour (Mr. Sorbara), who was gracious enough to provide this House with a copy of his statement in the *Toronto Star* on November 8, I found it particularly disturbing that this individual minister would make this statement, having served his government and this province in his capacity as Minister of Skills Development for two and a half years.

I note with interest in the government's announcement in the *Star* that women with less than grade 9 education who do not speak English will not walk out of a textile plant into a high-tech job. He also makes reference to the fact that they are almost certainly all at minimum wage.

The minister has taken a terrible moment in which to focus on the problems that immigrant and older women are experiencing in this province. Given his career as Skills Development minister, it is somewhat inappropriate for him to be standing in the House today talking about the problems that these women and undertrained workers are having in this province.

He published this document—it is significant that it has so much blank space on the front—Ontario's Training Strategy. It specifically eliminated the women in technical training and trades. That program was not extended and funded by him under his ministry.

The literacy funds that were his responsibility in his ministry were shunted around and reannounced three times in the course of a 12-month period. They started out in his ministry, then they were sent over to the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture, then they were sent over to the Ministry of Education. Now they have found their way back to the Ministry of Skills Development, and he has not increased a major commitment to literacy.

What has he been doing for two and a half years? He knew the free trade document was coming; he knew, by his own statements, the number of people who would have job transition problems. Yet he has the nerve to stand in this Legislature and announce that somehow the free trade agreement is going to have a devastating effect. Where has he been? What leadership is he providing for those women in this province? Now it is a new minister's problem, and he has done nothing for two and a half years to help them.

ORAL QUESTIONS

TRADE WITH UNITED STATES

Mr. B. Rae: I have a question to the Premier. When the Premier met some time ago with Ambassador Yeutter, he told me and he told the House that he had told Ambassador Yeutter that the provinces, in our view, would have a veto over the implementation of any trade pact. He then went on to say, "I explained to him the importance of the auto pact to Ontario."

Is that still the position of the government of Ontario? Is it still the position of the government that Ontario has a veto over the implementation of any trade pact?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: It depends on what the trade pact is, obviously. As the member knows, and I will repeat myself, when we were originally discussing this matter there was a sense that a great number of things were under provincial

jurisdiction. That is not, obviously, as clear in the final results we obtained a couple of weeks ago and will not be perfectly clear until the final wording of the final agreement we are supposed to see some time in November.

That being said, we are doing a thorough review of all of the constitutional and jurisdictional aspects of the deal as we see it at the present time. When that is done, we will be able to share that with the House in very precise terms, to show the areas where, under the deal as currently conceived, we do have jurisdiction.

1400

Mr. B. Rae: Ambassador Yeutter stated recently, when he came back two weeks ago and gave a speech to the Empire Club of Canada and the Canadian Clubs of Toronto, that he expected the provinces to agree to the agreement and to partake in any part of the agreement that required provincial involvement and, indeed, emphasized that this would be important in terms of the approval by Congress of the deal.

Since the Premier has stated so clearly now in the last two or three days how strongly opposed he is to the deal, I am sure he would want the Congress to defeat the bill, if that was possible. Is it the Premier's wish that Congress defeat this measure? If that is his wish, does he not agree that a clear and categorical statement by Ontario that (a) we will not ratify it in any way, shape or form and (b) that we will not implement the deal in so far as it affects provincial jurisdiction at all, would have an impact on congressional approval and is something we have an obligation to do?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: My friend would like me to stand and say that it should be defeated in the United States. I think it should be defeated here in Canada. That is, I guess, the difference between the member and myself in that particular regard. I think we have to fight our own battles here. We are now joined in a great national debate. Everyone will have a point of view, including the member, as to how this should be handled and, ultimately, there will be a judgement made.

I am aware of Ambassador Yeutter's comments, but I should also refer the member to the comments of some of the federal ministers on this side of the border who say provincial approval is not necessary. If I were asked for my signature to ratify the deal the answer would be a clear and unequivocal "No." We will not ratify that deal.

Mr. B. Rae: Perhaps the difference between the Premier and myself on this question is that I think the deal should be defeated in Ontario in so far as it affects Ontario. That is the position I

have taken as an Ontario politician. I have not heard the Premier of this province say a word about what he is going to do in Ontario on behalf of the people of Ontario who are affected by this deal.

What I am asking the Premier today, as I have asked him on other occasions, is simply this: Is he prepared to tell us whether he is going to make a categorical statement that Ontario will not implement any part of this agreement because of the effect that will have on the rest of Canada and because of the effect that will have on the ratification of this deal in the US Congress? Does the Premier not understand that if he were sincerely interested in defeating this measure, Ontario and Ontario's jurisdiction would be an excellent place to start, instead of talking about all the other things he would like to see happen?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: With great respect to my friend opposite, I think we have stated very clearly where we are on this situation. I also explained to my friend that we are analysing all of the jurisdictional aspects of it. My honourable friend would stand up and wave a stick even if he does not have a stick.

We are looking at it. The Attorney General (Mr. Scott) is looking at all of the constitutional implications. As I have said, we are not in favour of the deal and will not sign any kind of agreement that gives any impression we are ratifying the deal. But the substantive legal questions have yet to be determined. We will share that with the House at the appropriate time and then he can share with us his views on how to handle it.

Mr. B. Rae: I thought the Premier was going to say he needed a bigger majority to help him make up his mind.

CHILD CARE

Mr. B. Rae: I have a question for the Minister of Community and Social Services. Can he tell us whether the fact that the member for Oakwood (Ms. Hošek) and the member for Eglinton (Ms. Poole) have now been elected to the House has affected the government of Ontario's position with respect to the commercialization of child care in Ontario and the funding of commercial child care centres by the federal government? Is it still the position of the government of Ontario that the federal program should allow for the funding of private profit day care in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: It is still our position that the federal cost-sharing arrangement should allow Ontario to fund existing commercial day care, yes.

Mr. B. Rae: That will be an interesting discussion with the member for Oakwood, unless she has changed her position, because she was hostile to that position when she was outside the government, as was the member for Eglinton when she was outside the government.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: The member for Eglinton is now on this side of the House.

Mr. B. Rae: She is now on this side of the House so maybe she will come over. I do not know.

The supplementary question I have for the minister is this: The program that was announced by the government in June last year said that the government is intending \$165 million more to be spent on child care over the next three years. Can the minister confirm whether in actual fact that commits the province to spending \$27.5 million per year? Is that the correct interpretation?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: I am sorry, I cannot verify that one way or the other. What we have said is that for this fiscal year we will be spending a total of \$189 million compared with \$88 million when we formed the government, and at the end of the current three-year cycle we will be spending \$325 million.

We have also indicated that we would spend \$33 million for capital, and we would be introducing the direct grants this fiscal year and income testing rather than needs testing next fiscal year. That is part of the total package. But I cannot verify the specific figure the honourable leader just gave.

Mr. B. Rae: What I am saying is that what the minister is in fact announcing is 50 per cent dollars. He is announcing spending programs, half of which are coming from the federal government, and he is announcing them over a period of years when in fact the annual amount is considerably less.

By way of final supplementary to the minister, can he explain the number of stories that are coming to us on this side of the House from people who are involved in negotiations over the new federal program indicating that the message from Ontario, particularly since Black Monday, has been in those discussions, as in others, that Ontario does not want to see a major program coming from the federal government because of its cost implications for Ontario and its cost implications for Canada?

I wonder whether the minister can explain the number of those stories that are now circulating and why it would be that the provincial government's message to the federal government would be this: "You guys go ahead and fund

profit centres. That is fine with us; we have no objection to your doing that. We do not want to be seen to be doing that ourselves, but you go ahead and do it and we will participate in that program. Do not make it too big a program because we do not think the people of Canada can afford that program and Ontario is not prepared to foot the bill for that kind of program."

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: To go back to the editorial comment at the beginning of the question, at the present time Ontario pays slightly in excess of 60 per cent of the cost. The contribution from the federal government is about 38 or 39 per cent all in. Part of the reason for that is that the federal government does not contribute anything towards capital costs. We understand it is prepared to at least consider that as part of its new cost-sharing arrangement. So we could come closer to 50-50 when we know what the new deal is.

With respect to the specific question itself, I took the initiative on behalf of this government and my government colleagues to contact the federal minister and indicate clearly that Ontario was ready to move forward with its full commitment. I would point out to the honourable member that the amount of money Ontario spends is Ontario's decision. The Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) has several sources of income, the various tax fields that he inhabits and transfer payments from the federal government. That is a form of revenue to the Treasurer. It has nothing whatsoever to do with my programs.

I have a commitment from my cabinet colleagues that we are going to spend the kinds of dollars that we said, and we are prepared to do that. Obviously, we can do more if we have federal cost sharing. That is all we are saying.

1410

RENTAL ACCOMMODATION

Mr. Brandt: I want to get back to the questions to the Minister of Housing that we were pursuing last week. The minister will recall that during the election campaign there was a commitment made for 102,000 rental units that were proposed by her government. During the course of the questioning last week, she reconfirmed that figure of 102,000 units, although there was some ambiguity with respect to the time frame in which those units would be built.

My understanding is that in the emergency debate that was held last week that figure has changed rather substantively and has in fact been reduced to 66,000 new rental units that the minister proposed would be constructed between

1985 and 1990. Will the minister confirm today to this House what figure she proposes to use in terms of forecasting the number of new rental units her government proposes to build and in what time frame?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: The government recognizes the seriousness of the problem of people who do not have access to adequate housing which they can afford. We have announced a series of programs to provide that housing. We announced a program and announced funding. We funded units starting in 1985, we funded units starting in 1986 and in 1987, and we will continue to fund units every year at least until 1992 and beyond to make sure that the number of units required will be there.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Brandt: We want Alvin.

Mr. Cousens: No, we want an answer, and we want a very basic, truthful answer. Going back to the government's ad during the election campaign, as the Liberal Party of Ontario the government said it would complete 102,000 affordable rental units by 1989. That is going to take some money. They are not going to do anything unless the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) has given the minister any money for this. How much money have they allocated, as a government, for 102,000 affordable rental units? How much in dollars have they set aside for this?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: The government's commitment to build and convert units to supply the needs of the people in Ontario who need affordable housing is a matter of public record. I will not take the time of the House to detail those numbers again. If the member is interested in the details of every one of those announcements, I will be pleased to make a package of the announcements available to him.

Mr. Cousens: On behalf of the people of Ontario, I would like to know, and I would like to know in this House—I do not need to have secret notes coming back and forth with private information; we want it public, we want to know so that all the people of Ontario know—how much money the government is going to put into houses.

Maybe the minister will try this question then: Where are they going to be? How many will she build in Toronto, how many in Hamilton, how many in Ottawa? Just for three cities, will she tell us where they are going to build them?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: The number of units that we are funding is a matter of public record. It is not a

secret document. We will be glad to send that information across the House and everywhere else. The amount of money that the government is committing between 1985 and 1990 is \$645 million.

Mr. Speaker: New question; the member for Sarnia.

Mr. Brandt: We are going to stick with this one, Mr. Speaker. We will find out whether or not we can get some definitive statement with respect to housing in this province.

The Deputy Minister of Housing stated in a newspaper article last week that housing in Metro Toronto was 40 per cent overpriced, I believe that was his correct statement. He said in that same particular article, "We already know in the ministry how to reduce the costs as they relate to that 40 per cent overpricing."

Could the minister share with this House how she and her ministry officials, namely, the deputy minister, intend to reduce the price of housing to a more affordable level?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: There was a study that was conducted in the ministry in 1983 that yielded some of the numbers that are being referred to in the question. The issue of increasing the supply of housing which people can afford is one the ministry takes extremely seriously. There are a variety of methods that can be used to increase the supply of housing and to make the price closer to that which people can afford. We have a commitment to doing exactly that.

Mr. Brandt: We are heading for a massive shortfall in housing in this province, and we want to bring it to the government's attention because there are people who are going to suffer as a result of not having an appropriate and responsive type of program out of the minister's ministry, prepared over the course of the next few years.

I ask the minister again, since her deputy minister made a very definitive statement indicating that he in fact, through his ministry, knew how to reduce the price of housing in this province—which he indicates in Metro Toronto is 40 per cent overpriced—if she can tell us specifically what he has in mind; not a litany of what the minister has written in her briefing book, not a litany of programs that she has and that she is proposing to bring forward, but a specific indication—simply one specific indication; that is all I ask—of how she intends to reduce the price of housing in this particular area, Metro Toronto.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I am committed, along with this government, to building or causing more

housing to be built, which will be affordable to the people of Ontario. We have already indicated some of the ways in which this can happen. One of them is the use of government land. One of the others is a commitment from the municipalities that a significant proportion of the new housing built will be affordable housing.

Mr. Brandt: If we use the minister's figures of 66,000 units—which now are to be constructed, as I understand the context of her speech, in an entirely different time frame, from 1985 to 1990—what the minister has done in fact is simply to extend by one year, at the other end of the scale, moving the date from 1989 to 1990. As well, the minister has taken a couple of years at the front end of the scale to give her a much longer time frame in which to build all of these houses.

Now, instead of building 102,000 units in the rental market for affordable housing, she is now apparently moving that number down to 66,000, knowing full well, in her own ministry reports, that during that same time frame we require something like 120,000 rental units in this province through the years 1985 to 1990.

Will the minister please indicate what she intends to say to the 100,000 people who will not have adequate accommodations as a result of having a 50,000-unit shortfall in her ministry's own projections over the course of the next few years? It simply is unacceptable to those of us on this side of the House.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: The ministry committed funding to begin in 1985 for the building of units that are affordable. That building is coming on stream right now. That is the reason that we describe the program as going from 1985 to 1990. After funding has been committed, it takes 18 months for the units to come on stream. The units that we committed in 1985 are coming on stream right now.

1420

ST. ELIZABETH NURSING HOME

Mr. Mackenzie: I have a question for the Minister of Health. The laying of criminal charges this weekend against Sister Elizabeth Manhertz, president of the St. Elizabeth Nursing Home Society, is the latest chapter in the concerns that have been raised about this operation for some time.

Can the minister indicate if her ministry's investigation, which the previous minister assured me was being conducted, covered the total operation, and can she tell us when the results of this investigation will be made public?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I am aware of the events which have been taking place, and in fact the previous minister gave information to this House. I am not prepared to comment on the charges that were laid as they are criminal charges and before the court.

Regarding this government's response to nursing homes generally and our commitment to quality of care, I believe that over the course of the past two years there have been many initiatives taken to ensure that compliance with the act is in place.

Mr. Mackenzie: The minister knows that she did not answer the question with regard to when the results will be made known. Quebec law protects those who are dying and their heirs from scavengers who take advantage of the weakened condition of their prey to divert money or property from the rightful owners or heirs to themselves.

In Quebec, a gift made by a person who is suffering from a mortal illness and is aware that he or she is dying will be invalidated as a gift in contemplation of death, unless the person receiving the gift can prove the circumstances surrounding the gift validated. Can the minister tell us if she will consider similar legislation here in Ontario?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: On August 6, the minister gave an order to take over the specific operation, and in fact the St. Elizabeth Nursing Home licence was assumed by the ministry for a period of six months. The care was increased and I believe, under the amendments to the Nursing Homes Act, the existing powers which the ministry has and the commitment that we have to quality of care within nursing homes, that we have the ability to ensure that to the residents of Ontario.

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE REVIEW BOARD

Mr. Runciman: My question is for the Minister of Community and Social Services. The Kingston Whig-Standard ran an article on October 16 about a woman named Roberta Spark, who was recently appointed to the Social Assistance Review Board as a welfare dispute arbitrator.

Fourteen months ago, Ms. Spark was convicted of theft from her former employer and fined for the offence. Apparently this was not revealed during the interview process for the board position, and in fact the senior staffing officer who presided over the interview process is quoted as saying that the conviction does not relate to the job.

Will the minister tell the House whether he thinks that such information is in fact relevant when recruiting people to the board?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: Let me share with my colleagues that the process of finding the 12 permanent members for the board was a lengthy one. It was a totally open process, unlike in the past when people were simply appointed to it. I believe that something like 1,200 applications were made, and it was narrowed down to about 60 or 70 where very in-depth interviews took place.

I am not aware of the specific situation the member just raised. I am sorry I did not know about that before. I will certainly look into it myself. The nature of the charge obviously is going to impact upon the job that this lady is being asked to do. As the honourable member knows, there is theft and there is theft; there is quite a range of it. I can assure him, however, if it is something that is considered serious and if there is an impact on the job, we will certainly review it.

Mr. Runciman: The holier-than-thou approach comparing what the previous methods were is not unexpected, but I wonder if the approach the minister has outlined today would hold true if the candidate was not an active Liberal. The person in question, Ms. Spark, was very actively involved in the re-election campaign of the former—I stress “former”—Solicitor General. This appointment smells of patronage.

Are there any clear recruitment guidelines for such a position, or is involvement in a Liberal election campaign the real criterion?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: Let me share with my colleagues that this selection process was narrowed down to a decision between the human resources branch of the government, not of my ministry, and Ms. Joanne Campbell, who is going to be the new chairman of the board. I think the honourable member, knowing both those sources, would appreciate the fact that no patronage would be involved in that process, that it had nothing at all to do with minister or even the total ministry and that it certainly had nothing to do with my government colleagues. This was the most open, the fairest selection process, and it was based totally, completely and entirely on merit.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

LIMITATIONS ACT

Mr. D. R. Cooke: I have a question for the Attorney General. Karen Marciano is a 30-year-

old married woman who in 1983 at the age of 26, at the urging of her fiancé, sought out a self-help group to deal with her repressed, blocked feelings, complicated by flashbacks, as a result of an incestuous relationship she had with her father as a small child.

As part of her therapy, she confronted her father. His consistent denial forced her to sue him, in front of a jury, for a successful award of \$50,000 for pain and suffering and punitive damages. After the trial, Mr. Justice Maloney found that the assault was governed by clause 45(1)(j) of the Limitations Act and was unactionable after four years from the date of the occurrence.

My question to the Attorney General is, will he consider amending the Limitations Act to permit a separate definition of "incestuous assault" with a longer limitation period?

Hon. Mr. Scott: I thank the honourable member for his question. It is correct to say that when this woman sued her father for incest she was deprived of the judgement the court otherwise would have made, because four years is the limitation period that is provided in the province's Limitations Act for assault.

I can tell my honourable friend and my colleagues in the House that for about six months now, at least, we have been reviewing the various limitations that apply to a wide variety of acts and events with a view to bringing before the House at some appropriate time a completely revised Limitations Act. I am grateful to the honourable member for bringing to my attention this particular case, about which I should make no other comment, because it is being appealed.

Mr. D. R. Cooke: In considering various alternatives, would the Attorney General consider a 10-year limitation period for incestuous assault, with the adoption of a principle of delayed discovery of that assault in situations of this sort?

Hon. Mr. Scott: The honourable member, no doubt, knows that delayed discovery as a principle is one that the courts have begun to apply to all limitation periods, and it may well be a principle that should be incorporated in any renewed legislation. There is no particular virtue, however, it seems to me, in proceeding piecemeal in this matter to deal with only one kind of egregious difficulty.

What the Legislature would want to do, it seems to me, to be practical and fair, is to review all limitations in tortuous and contractual cases and try to develop a consistent approach to all of them. That is what our review of the Limitations

Act is designed to do. I would be grateful to honourable members, if they have suggestions of their own on this or allied matters, to let me have them so that they can be part of that review.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Miss Martel: I have a question for the Minister of Labour, whom I have not had the pleasure of meeting yet, but I am sure I will before this is all over.

The minister should be aware that there was a serious and potentially fatal incident at Inco's Froid-Stobie mill on July 4, 1986. The area mining engineer assured union Local 6500 that a thorough investigation was being conducted by the mining branch in Toronto and that the branch director would then make a decision regarding prosecutions. Based on that assurance, the union agreed to co-operate and not to appeal the ministry's assessment report.

As of late September 1987, the union was advised that the file on this incident had been lost by the Ministry of Labour and the time limits for prosecution had expired. That is not very surprising, since my own office has now forwarded two complete files on this incident to the minister's office. We were advised as of Thursday last that both had been lost and were asked to send a further copy; that is the third copy.

Mr. Speaker: And the question is?

Miss Martel: I would like to ask the minister, what does he intend to do about this incompetence to ensure that those who are responsible are going to be prosecuted?

1430

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Let me begin by welcoming the member for Sudbury East and let me simply say that the great traditions of debate in question period between the former Minister of Labour and the former member for Sudbury East are obviously going to continue. She asked me what I would recommend. The first thing I will do is to make very certain that when that third full file is sent over, we will have a person waiting there for it at the door.

Let me just seriously acknowledge to my friend from Sudbury East that I will look into this matter. It is not one I was aware of as I came into the House today for question period. If the time limit has expired on prosecutions, then the time limit has expired on prosecutions unless there is room within the law to extend that time period. I certainly will look into that.

Miss Martel: It seems some things never change and they certainly are not changing at 400 University Avenue.

Let me say that it is our understanding that the ministry's Sudbury office did receive a letter recommending that prosecutions be initiated. I would like to ask the minister if, when he is checking into this issue, he can confirm this, and second, what action he is prepared to take in order to ensure that despite the incompetence of his ministry, which allowed the whole matter to be bungled, such occurrences will not be repeated in other serious and potentially fatal incidents. Finally, is he going to do something about the swamp to try to clean it up?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: My friend from Sudbury East is stealing other people's lines and unfortunately she does not realize that the line was inappropriate then and is inappropriate now. I do not think we should start off this session of the House with that sort of rhetoric.

I answered, in my answer to the main question, that the matter would be looked into with all haste, and I will do that; but my goodness, let us start off, her a new member with new critic responsibilities and me a new minister, with a kind of decorum that did not, unfortunately, characterize the last session of this House.

RENT REGULATION

Mr. Jackson: I have a question for the Minister of Housing. Last week I raised in the Legislature the plight of the tens of thousands of tenants in the city of Toronto in approximately 2,000 buildings. In 877 of those buildings, the tenants are faced with increases in excess of 25 per cent. They still do not know how much and when they are going to have to pay their retroactive payments. Tens of thousands of tenants in the city of North York are facing an equally serious problem and yet the minister refuses to make public the statistics on the magnitude of this problem.

Will the minister brief her caucus colleagues the member for Oriole (Mrs. Caplan), the member for Lawrence (Mr. Cordiano), the member for Wilson Heights (Mr. Kwinter), the member for Downsview (Mr. Leone), the member for Willowdale (Mr. Matrundola), the member for York Mills (Mr. J. B. Nixon), the member for Yorkview (Mr. Polsinelli) and the member for Don Mills (Mr. Velshi) on the full magnitude of this backlog problem and share with them the statistics on how serious a problem it is for the tens of thousands of tenants who will be experiencing 30 and 40 per cent increases?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I know the problem of the backlog in rent review is serious. I take it very seriously. I am committed to ensuring that this

backlog will be removed as soon as possible and that there will be certainty for tenants and the public. Let me just point out, however, that the fact someone has asked for an increase of a particular number is no guarantee he will get it. The rent review process will yield fair response and those numbers landlords are asking for are no index of the actual increase people will have to pay.

Mr. Jackson: That is a rather extraordinary assurance the minister has given, particularly in the light of the elements of Bill 51 that are nondiscretionary on the part of the rent administrators. I specifically asked the minister if she would brief the members of this House who will be faced with the tenant phone calls from North York. But according to her failure to release publicly the document—I would just like to share with this House how serious the statistics are in North York. According to her own ministry, there are 1,722 applications for whole-building review in North York. They were filed only in the first half of this year.

Thirty-five per cent of the applications, affecting a total of 607 buildings, have given notice of increase of 25 per cent. There could be tens of thousands of tenants involved in North York. The issue of retroactivity, the requirement to pay that, is hanging over the heads of these tenants. One of her own ministry officials has now pegged it at maybe next November. Landlords are making statements that they feel special trust funds should be established for these funds.

Mr. Speaker: Question.

Mr. Jackson: When will the minister make public the statistics on the magnitude of this problem and provide the necessary assurances through Christmas, when people are going to have to make some serious decisions about whether or not they should move out of their tenancies because they cannot afford them?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: We are committed to removing the backlog as soon as possible and we are using all the means at our disposal to do so. At this time we are actively reviewing increasing staffing, more effective processing of the applications and a superior use of technology. We are looking at all of those options very seriously. I will use whatever ways are available to process that backlog as quickly as possible.

Let me reiterate that I know this is a serious problem. I am very concerned for the tenants involved. It is a serious issue, and we will be

working hard to make sure that those answers are given as soon as possible.

AUTO PACT

Mr. Tatham: My question is to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology. The General Motors-Suzuki plant in Ingersoll in Oxford county was to meet the auto pact's 60 per cent Canadian-content rule needed for duty-free status within two years of opening. Will the rules change because of the proposed free trade deal, which limits the auto pact to the Big Three auto makers?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: I thank the member for the question. One of the key concerns that we have with the proposed free trade agreement is how it treats the auto pact and how it grandfathers the existing companies. I am sure members will know that questions have been raised—not by us but by both the federal and American negotiators—that in fact they may not meet auto pact requirements. This is something that I understand is part of a secret agreement, and it is really something that we have a great deal of concern about.

TRANSPORTATION OF DANGEROUS GOODS

Mrs. Grier: I have a question to the Minister of the Environment. In December 1985 the Premier (Mr. Peterson) met with the Governor of Michigan in what the Windsor Star described as a love-in and signed a pollution control pact for cross-boundary pollution.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: That was you and Bradley, wasn't it?

Mrs. Grier: No, it was the Premier and the Governor of Michigan.

Yet two years later, Windsor residents are faced with the incredible prospect of a barge which is going to shuttle hazardous materials and waste back and forth across the Detroit River from Windsor to Detroit.

Can the minister tell the House what he is going to do to ensure that there is an environmental assessment review process before materials which are considered too dangerous to be transported by truck through the tunnels from Detroit and Windsor are shipped instead across the river, with all the risks that entails?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: It is indeed a disconcerting development that has been certainly a subject of considerable interest in the area of Windsor. As a matter of fact, as the member would know, the transportation of dangerous goods across the border comes under the jurisdiction of the federal

government. For that reason, I have taken the initiative to communicate with the office of the federal minister, who would communicate in turn with some of the other ministries which would have jurisdiction, such as the national Department of Transport, in order that we can see what activities can be undertaken to prevent this from happening in the first place.

The member is quite correct in the statement that it is not permitted to cross the tunnel or the bridge because of the concern about a potential accident. It would seem to me that the same concern should be expressed about the potential of an accident involving a barge. We are dealing there with an international waterway, one which has already been subject to effluents that are less than desirable, and of course to emissions from the area, so I want to assure the member that the federal minister has been contacted. We have been assured that they are looking at various ways of either preventing this or at least ensuring that it is undertaken under the strictest rules possible.

1440

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I do not think the minister's answers are good enough. At this point now, we have six proposals going on in the Detroit area for hazardous waste proposals. We have the incinerator that is going up. We have a major expansion proposed for the city airport in Detroit which is going to have a detrimental impact on the environment in the east end of Windsor, and now we have this barge proposal which also affects our federal government, and the minister was not even informed of many of these proposals.

I would like to ask the minister: What was this agreement that he signed with the governor of Michigan, and is it not time that he and his counterpart and the Premier (Mr. Peterson) and the Governor of Michigan sit down again and say that we have to work co-operatively and stop putting the people of our community at risk?

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: First of all, with the "Hear, hears," the member would be aware that it is Ontario that is in the courts of the United States at the present time—the only jurisdiction which is in the courts of the United States at the present time—fighting for the people of Essex county, fighting for the people of Windsor, expending taxpayers' dollars from Ontario.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: They are still building the incinerator.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: If the member thinks that I have the opportunity to dictate to the United

States, that is incorrect. If he believes I have the opportunity, as the Minister of the Environment of Ontario, to enter the court proceedings in the United States at the expense of the people of Ontario—and I believe that is a legitimate expense—to the annoyance of our neighbours, and that is just too bad if they are annoyed about that, but as the Minister of the Environment of Ontario, I have met personally with the mayor of Detroit to put the case of Ontario, the case of Canada and the case of the city of Windsor to the mayor of the city of Detroit.

This province is the jurisdiction which has shown the leadership in that regard, and any time there is lack of information passing between the two sides—and I want to tell you that both Ontario and Michigan have been guilty from time to time of violating that—I have taken the necessary action on our side. We have communicated the need to have similar action on the other side of the border to ensure that we in the Canadian jurisdiction are informed of any new initiatives on the part of those in the state of Michigan.

EDUCATION FUNDING

Mr. Jackson: I have a question for the Minister of Education. Last night on Dateline Ontario, the minister was asked a question by Mark Kennedy about his government's commitment to the 60 per cent funding level in education.

Specifically, he asked the minister, "When will you keep your word?" That question would have been quite unnecessary had the minister made public the three-year statistical analyses from school boards in Ontario which are traditionally tabulated and received by his ministry in the first week of July and have always been made public during the summer. The ministry has sat on them for four months and the minister's predecessor refused to make them public.

When will the minister provide this public document for this House and for the school boards in Ontario so that the answer to that question will become abundantly clear?

Hon. Mr. Ward: I have directed officials within the ministry to release those reports immediately.

Mr. Jackson: Given the fact that the minister has had nearly four months to analyse them, I am nervous that he was unable to give Mr. Kennedy a clearer statement on Dateline Ontario last night, but so there is no credibility gap between school boards and the ministry, will the minister state now, for purposes of the House, specifically

whether or not the ministry's contribution and the contribution that is borne by local taxpayers has either increased or decreased?

Hon. Mr. Ward: I am happy to advise my friend the member for Burlington South that indeed this government is committed to reducing the burden of education on the property taxpayer. I would point out that in order to attain the 60 per cent funding level it would cost an additional \$1.1 billion. I suggest to my friend that he take a look at this government's financial commitment in terms of the flow of funds to school boards during the course of the past two fiscal years and he would clearly recognize our commitment to adequately fund education.

ELECTRICITY DEMAND AND SUPPLY

Mr. Charlton: I have a question for the Premier. The Premier is aware that Hydro has been working on its Demand-Supply Options Study for some three years now. The study, which Hydro originally told us would be completed by last December, is described as the most comprehensive analysis ever done of options for electricity supply and demand beyond Darlington.

Can the Premier tell us, almost a year after the original targeted completion date, when we can expect to see the release of that study?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: As soon as it is available.

Mr. Charlton: The Premier does not seem to understand the importance of the study or the importance of the timing of the release of that study. With time pressures pending very quickly, in terms of what Hydro has told us about the need for further construction, and in the light of the fact of the comments made by the new Minister of Energy (Mr. Wong) over the last two weeks about the need to make Hydro more accountable and the need to bring its financial structure under control, specifically its debt structure, will the Premier assure this House that Hydro's Demand-Supply Options Study will be part of the terms of reference of his announced new select committee on energy so that committee can hold public hearings and do a thorough analysis of that study?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I am not being facetious; I say to my honourable friend that report will be made public as soon as it is possible and as soon as it is available. Frankly, I do not know when it is going to be made available, but it will be made public as soon as it is. He is quite right, this will need a thorough and complete analysis and discussion right across this province. Depending on who one listens to, there will have to be some

major decisions made about long-term supply some time over the next few years.

There is no crisis. We obviously have to think ahead as a Legislature and we would want to have the benefit of the opinion of all members of the Legislature as we look at various demand-supply options. There are many of them, as the member knows. We want to give ourselves as much time as is necessary to do that and have the benefit of the wisdom of people right across this province. I think he could be assured that there will be a full, frank and thorough discussion with all members and all people in this province about those alternatives.

FARM TAX REBATE

Mr. Villeneuve: I have a question of the Minister of Revenue. The minister should be aware that senior citizens living on nonproducing farms have had their tax burden raised very considerably by this provincial government. The rebate is now received only on their house and the one acre of land. The tax on remaining land and buildings must be borne by the seniors and is no longer rebated by any ministry within this government. Yet, the same government refuses to let seniors sever the excess land which they can no longer use on their farms. Why are these seniors being discriminated against?

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: I think this government has recognized for some months now, close to a year, that property tax rebates or grants should be increased and this is why we have increased it by \$100. In coming years seniors will be receiving \$600 instead of \$500. I think we have been very generous.

Mr. Villeneuve: Quite obviously the minister does not realize what is happening. I will draw him a small picture. Senior citizens in rural Ontario are not receiving a rebate on their farm land. If they do not gross \$8,000 they do not receive the farm tax rebate from his colleague over there in the Ministry of Agriculture and Food. They are being discriminated against because they live in rural Ontario on farms. Will he undertake to tell this Legislature today that he will correct the discriminatory legislation that he has put in place?

1450

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: I will repeat that I think this government, along with the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell), has been very generous and we intend to continue this practice. If farmers are not receiving an adequate tax grant, then the Minister of Agriculture and Food will compensate with other programs. I

think our government does have great programs to compensate for the lack of some others. We will continue this practice and rural farmers anywhere in Ontario will be well treated by this government.

CROSS-BOUNDARY POLLUTION

Mr. McGuigan: With respect to residents in southwestern Ontario, and farmers in particular, my question is of the Minister of the Environment. Their concern is about press reports of ozone pollution affecting their crops, the white bean crop specifically, and I can tell the minister something about that because I used to grow white beans. Most of the ozone pollution is coming from the United States. What effect will the free trade agreement have on Ontario's ability to take measures on this side to try to control this pollution?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: It is an excellent question. I know the leader of the New Democratic Party is saying that the member should be asking about marketing boards.

Mr. Speaker: Do you have a very concise answer?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: I have a concise answer that says I have a very great concern about the potential impact of a specific free trade agreement on the environment, not only as it relates to Ontario or to the specific part of the province that the member addresses but also to Canada as a whole.

The reason for this is that in many jurisdictions within the United States the legislation and regulations are somewhat weaker and the ability to enforce those regulations is somewhat weaker south of the border. If our industries are asked to compete without compensating tariffs to assist us in being competitive, then in the light of the fact that our rules and regulations are generally much stronger and stricter, it seems to me that pressure will increase rather significantly on this side of the border to relax those rules or not be so stringent in the rules we develop. It is not the intention of the Ontario government to do so, but our industries will be put at a competitive disadvantage.

In other areas, such as our acid rain assistance program, federal and provincial together, where there is \$150 million provided jointly by the provinces and the federal government to deal with the problem of acid rain, there is a real question mark as to whether that would be subject to any action on the part of Americans who would see it as an indirect subsidy.

TRUCKING INDUSTRY

Mr. Philip: I have a question to the Minister of Transportation. He will be aware that the speech from the throne contained numerous references to legislation that was left over from the last parliament and would be reintroduced in this parliament. Notable by its absence was any mention of the deregulation bills that he introduced in the House and got second reading for.

Is this an indication the minister has now realized that his deregulation policies and bills that he introduced were ill thought out, that they would cost thousands of jobs of Ontario truckers in this province, and will he give us a guarantee today that they will not be reintroduced in this House?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: The member for Etobicoke-Rexdale will be aware that at no time did we ever introduce legislation in this House with respect to deregulation, a very significant difference, and he is well aware of it. He is still living with the committee of this House that formed I think in 1977 and is not aware, obviously, of the details contained in our legislation that was introduced and proceeded to second reading in committee.

Mr. Philip: If I am not aware that it is deregulation, certainly the trucking companies and the truckers are aware of it because they called it deregulation.

Is the minister aware that Raymond Cope, president of the Ontario Trucking Association, has said that the deregulation—and that is his word—bills introduced by this government, coupled with free trade, will mean the loss of thousands of jobs in this province? Will the minister now take that into account and give us an assurance that he will not reintroduce the deregulation bills he did introduce in the last House?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: Of course I am aware of what the Ontario Trucking Association is saying. There is a great deal of disagreement with the wording it is using and some of the things being said by the spokesmen the member has indicated.

Of course we will not proceed with deregulation bills in this House. From the beginning, we have never said we would do what the Americans did, which was complete deregulation of their industry in 1980. The member knows it, and his colleagues on that side of the House know full well that our bills do not compare with the deregulation bills processed in the United States in 1978 and 1980.

VICIOUS DOGS

Mr. McCague: I have a question for the Solicitor General. Some months ago my leader called on the ministry or the then minister to—

Hon. Mr. Elston: Which one? Which one are you talking about? Name names.

Mr. McCague: The member is not present today.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: The question, please.

Mr. McCague: Yes, Mr. Speaker, they are being very disruptive.

My leader called some months ago for strengthening of legislation, namely the Dog Owners' Liability Act, particularly with reference to all the incidents we have heard about with the pit bull terriers. Studies have shown they are most liable to attack children and seniors. Will the minister act immediately and bring in the necessary amendments to strengthen the existing legislation and minimize the chance of a fatal dog attack?

Hon. Mrs. Smith: I thank the member for his question.

Indeed, the committee has been formed. There are three acts, actually, that apply to this particular situation of vicious dogs. First, I would like to point out that it is the opinion of the committee that was formed that we should be discussing vicious dogs, rather than pit bull terriers, as it becomes very difficult to prove in a court of law that a pit bull is necessarily a pit bull. A lot of time and energy could be wasted in a court as to whether it is a pit bull, so we prefer to address the matter of vicious dogs per se since it really does not matter which breed of dog commits a vicious act.

The three acts affected are all from different ministries, so those ministers sat down together and have put forward some recommendations for consideration by cabinet. The two chief differences would be increasing the penalty and expanding the power of municipalities to tighten their laws. These specific recommendations are being forwarded to municipalities for their comments since they are the ones that will have to enact the bylaws. So we will be waiting to hear from them and receive their advice as soon as we can and act upon this.

Mr. McCague: I think it is vicious dogs we were referring to and not necessarily just the pit bull.

We have communications from about 150 municipalities that are in favour of some form of change in legislation along the lines of that

enacted by the city of Toronto originally. In view of the fact that 150 municipalities have endorsed this, when can we expect action on the minister's behalf?

Hon. Mrs. Smith: The recommended amendments should be ready very shortly, but I point out that although the member may have heard from 150 municipalities, part of the problem is that many municipalities in fact do not have appropriate bylaws and do not enforce their bylaws, so it is partly a question of education of these municipalities.

I point out as well that, unfortunately, the recent episode that was reported this weekend in fact occurred in Toronto, which has the most up-to-date bylaws, so at least part of the problem is in the enforcement of the bylaws and this is a matter within the bounds of the municipalities. We will do everything we can to encourage municipalities to do their duty in this area.

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PETITIONS

DIALYSIS UNIT

Mr. Pollock: I have a petition to the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"That the government of Ontario provide the funding for a haemo-dialysis unit for one of the hospitals in Peterborough."

It is signed by 20 people from the north Hastings area.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I would just like to remind all members that the routine proceedings are continuing, if we could have their attention.

NATUROPATHY

Mr. Reyecraft: I have a petition signed by 20 people from or near the riding of Windsor-Sandwich addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, calling for the introduction of legislation to guarantee naturopaths the right to practise their art and science to the fullest without prejudice or harassment.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA ACT

Mr. Epp moved first reading of Bill Pr29, An act respecting The United Church of Canada and The Canada Conference The Evangelical United Brethren Church.

Motion agreed to.

ONTARIO LOAN ACT

Hon. R. F. Nixon moved first reading of Bill 11, An Act to authorize the raising of Money on the Credit of the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: This is a standard bill introduced to the Legislature each year. The limit for this bill, the honourable members will be glad to know, is \$1.6 billion.

GREENWOOD RACEWAY ACT

Ms. Bryden moved first reading of Bill 12, An Act to ban Sunday Racing and Intertrack Wagering at Greenwood Raceway and to change the Composition and Procedures of the Ontario Racing Commission.

Motion agreed to.

Ms. Bryden: This bill is substantially the same as two bills I introduced in the two previous sessions of the Legislature. Its objective is to ban racing and intertrack wagering on Sundays at the Greenwood Raceway in my riding and to protect the democratic rights of residents affected by racetrack activities. It also changes the composition of the Ontario Racing Commission to include representatives of the general public living in the vicinity of racetracks.

Greenwood Raceway is the only racetrack in Ontario located in a high-density, urban, residential neighbourhood and this legislation is needed to deal with the community problems arising from that fact.

YORK FIRE & CASUALTY INSURANCE COMPANY ACT

Mr. Cousens moved first reading of Bill Pr14, An Act respecting York Fire & Casualty Insurance Company.

Motion agreed to.

DRIVING SCHOOL ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO ACT

Mr. Ferraro moved first reading of Bill Pr7, An Act respecting the Driving School Association of Ontario.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Speaker: The member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick.

[Applause]

Mr. Kanter: I am not sure, in view of the routine nature of the bill I am about to move, that is entirely deserved.

An hon. member: This is the only time you will get it.

Mr. Kanter: Thank you. I will accept it in that case.

353583 ONTARIO LIMITED ACT

Mr. Kanter moved first reading of Bill Pr26, An Act to revive 353583 Ontario Limited.

Motion agreed to.

SPECIAL ABILITY RIDING INSTITUTE ACT

Mr. Reycraft moved first reading of Bill Pr13, An Act respecting the Special Ability Riding Institute.

Motion agreed to.

ONTARIO ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS ACT

Mrs. Grier moved first reading of Bill 13, An Act respecting Environmental Rights in Ontario.

Motion agreed to.

Mrs. Grier: This is similar to the legislation that was introduced in the last session of this House and received second reading. It is an act that provides for environmental rights, as it says, and guarantees people the right to initiate actions and to have access to information concerning the environment.

CENTRE FOR EDUCATIVE GROWTH ACT

Mr. Morin moved first reading of Bill Pr12, An Act to revive the Centre for Educative Growth.

Motion agreed to.

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COMMUNITY YOUTH PROGRAMS INCORPORATED ACT

Mr. Carrothers moved first reading of Bill Pr70, An Act to revive Community Youth Programs Incorporated.

Motion agreed to.

ONTARIO SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT

Mrs. Grier moved first reading of Bill 14, An Act to protect and enhance the Quality of Drinking Water in Ontario.

Motion agreed to.

Mrs. Grier: The objective of this legislation is to provide opportunities for public involvement in the setting of regulations covering the quality of drinking water throughout the province.

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

Consideration of the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

Ms. Poole moved, seconded by Mr. Brown, that an humble address be presented to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor as follows:

To the Honourable Lincoln M. Alexander, a member of Her Majesty's Privy Council for Canada, Knight of Grace of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, one of Her Majesty's counsel learned in the law, bachelor of arts, doctor of laws, colonel in Her Majesty's armed forces supplementary reserve, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario:

We, Her Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario, now assembled, beg leave to thank Your Honour for the gracious speech Your Honour has addressed to us.

Ms. Poole: It is an honour for me at long last to move adoption of the speech from the throne. I would like to commend the Lieutenant Governor for his excellent delivery of the throne speech on Tuesday last and to compliment him for the dignity and the decorum he brings to his position as the crown's representative.

I wish to warmly congratulate my colleague the member for Perth (Mr. Edighoffer) on his re-election as Speaker. His reputation for fairness and integrity have rightly earned him the respect of this House.

There will be many speeches made in this House over the next four years and there will be much rhetoric, but before we get too caught up in the day-to-day routine, let us remind ourselves of why we are here. We are here to speak for others and not just for ourselves. We are here to work for our neighbourhoods and to protect our communities. Most of all, we are here to fulfil the trust of the people, for truly the business of this House is the people's business; for politics is not merely policies, politics is people.

On September 10 the people of this province spoke with a resounding voice—mind you, not quite as resounding as in New Brunswick—and they endorsed the principles which His Honour the Lieutenant Governor outlined last April.

Tuesday's speech from the throne provides for the implementation of those principles, the most important being the desire of the people of Ontario to be governed by a balance of fiscal responsibility and social conscience. Some call that balance common sense; I call it Liberalism.

As we enter the last decade of the 20th century, Ontario faces many challenges, challenges

which we, as MPPs, must be prepared to face on a daily basis.

My riding of Eglinton is well known to many of the members as north Toronto. I know there is a misconception in the minds of many that Eglinton is a bastion of the wealthy. In reality, we are a community in transition. We are not just home owners; we are now predominantly a tenant riding. We are not just a collage of well-to-do families; we are now also aspiring singles. We are an interesting blend of age groups, professions and, surprising to many, increasingly of cultural backgrounds. Who would have thought 10 years ago that the riding of Eglinton would elect a woman; 10 years ago, who would have thought that the riding of Eglinton would elect a young woman; and who would ever have thought that the riding of Eglinton would elect a Liberal?

The people of Eglinton share the same concerns as the rest of the province. For example, in my riding local parent associations have voiced their anxieties about the quality of education. I am the mother of two school-age children and I share that concern.

This government has gone a long way towards addressing those concerns, and we will continue to make bold initiatives, for our children deserve the best we can provide. Surely they are the most precious of all our natural resources.

We will establish province-wide standards for literacy, mathematics, social sciences and science, and we will develop more effective ways of measuring our children's achievements against these standards.

We will provide school boards with the resources to reduce class size for grades 1 and 2, purchase new textbooks and increase the availability of educational software.

For those parents who have been constantly frustrated by the vagueness of report cards, we will introduce more detailed reports of our children's scholastic aptitude and progress.

Nor will we ignore our teachers as they work to adapt to new demands, particularly as they acquire proficiency in the technical literacies.

I will also be working to bring the parents in my riding into direct dialogue with my honourable colleague the Minister of Education (Mr. Ward).

I shall also seek the help of one of my most distinguished corporate residents and constituents, TVOntario, in extending the horizons of educational broadcasting.

Finally, it is the intention of this government to establish a select committee on education to

listen to various perspectives on our educational system.

Although parts of north Toronto are definitely prosperous, I am constantly reminded by the people who come to me for help that we cannot provide our children with a place to learn unless we first provide them with a place to live. This government will not tolerate a further erosion of affordable housing.

We will move swiftly and decisively to create an environment conducive to increased investment in rental housing. We will promote conversion-to-rent initiatives, upgrading, modifying and intensifying the rental stock of existing apartments. I am personally committed to protecting the rights of tenants.

We shall not turn a blind eye to those with special housing needs: the disabled, the homeless or the abused mother and her children.

We shall also seek to restore the prospect of home ownership to those who had begun to despair that they would ever be able to afford it. We shall be innovative in the use of government lands and establish greater protection for buyers of new homes.

For my constituents of Eglinton I make a special commitment, a commitment to keep the promise of this government never to impose market value assessment on the city of Toronto against the wishes of the people of Toronto.

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Speaking as a Torontonians, I have watched this metropolis grow until almost 3.5 million people now live in the greater Toronto area. A great deal of living space has to be found and many services are needed to support the population. Rapid growth means a lot of problems: housing problems, traffic problems, parking problems, refuse problems—all in all, a lot of headaches.

To date, there has been no overall, co-ordinated strategy for growth, despite the fact that parts of this city are subject to the jurisdiction of multiple levels of government. This administration will move to provide some measure of co-ordination so that the vitality and character of our neighbourhoods will be enjoyed in the years to come.

The issue of environmental protection is an imperative. My honourable colleague the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley) has provided a breath of fresh air, both literally and figuratively, to the people of this province. The government will continue to restore our lakes and beaches and will pursue international under-

standing to give priority to the cleaning of our waterways.

The most immediate international issue before this House is the proposed trade agreement with the United States. The difficulties we have experienced with our American neighbours over the environment ought to make us very careful to ensure that the US is truly committed to fair trade before we are too willing to make concessions. Put the pact to the acid test. A free trade deal that retains American protectionism while leaving Canada vulnerable is no deal at all.

As MPPs, our first task must be to preserve and expand on Ontario's economic strengths. I consider one of these strengths to be the women of this province. I regard it as no small accomplishment that there are as many women on the government benches as there are members of the entire Conservative caucus.

An hon. member: That's not our fault.

Ms. Poole: I heard a comment over here saying, "That's not our fault," but I beg to differ on that one.

The proclamation of the government's pay equity legislation on January 1, 1988, represents a major step, not just for women but for our overall economic growth. Parallel initiatives are being planned to modernize and make our training and apprenticeship programs more accessible, and particularly more accessible to more women. As the first woman elected in the history of Eglinton, I am particularly delighted to see these initiatives.

Developing our human resources also means investing in child care. As a working mother, I well know the difficulties of trying to juggle job, home and children. I personally feel that women will never reach their full potential in the work place until we have affordable and accessible child care in this province. This also means pressing for a national partnership in the provision of child care services. This government is pledged to an integrated day care system for school-age children in existing schools, new schools and in locations near schools.

Building on our economic strengths also means promoting the entrepreneurial spirit and encouraging employee share ownership plans at work. The government's actions in funding the centres of entrepreneurship and appointing a commissioner of industrial restructuring are evidence of this commitment. This latter program is particularly important in promoting the partnership of government, management and labour essential to the success of any industrial strategy.

We must also ensure that the products of our industries are of high quality and meet consumer standards. The government's intention to introduce a consumer protection code will, among other benefits, enhance our overall competitiveness and our pride in workmanship. For consumers, both here and abroad, we are prepared to stand by this simple motto: Ontario means quality.

The first prerequisite of a healthy economy is a healthy people. In Eglinton riding, where there is at present no health care facility, we applaud the transition from institution-based health care to community-based health care. In fact, preliminary proposals are under way at this time for a community health centre on the former site of the 53 Division police headquarters in Eglinton riding. The centre would include clinics for adolescents and women. It would also include a seniors' day care centre.

I am hopeful of obtaining the full moral and financial support of my colleagues the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan) and, of course, our esteemed Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) in this endeavour.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Me?

Ms Poole: Toi.

The broad strokes of the government's health policy will be sketched by the Premier's council on health strategy, a most welcome development. It is my personal hope that the council will tackle the issue of acquired immune deficiency syndrome early in its deliberations, both in terms of prevention and in terms of care.

I began by stressing what we as parents owe to our children. Let me conclude by not forgetting the care that we as children owe to our parents. We owe our parents a decent, affordable place to live. For the elderly, for those who are frail, we owe the additional services of our integrated homemaker program. Above all, we owe our parents the community support that enables them to maintain their independence, their health, their interests and, most of all, their dignity. The society that does not take care of the needs of the elderly cannot consider itself to be civilized.

I defined the Liberal tradition earlier as a combination of social conscience and fiscal responsibility. Part of the pride I feel today in moving the adoption of the throne speech is the fact that I am the first person to have done so for a Liberal majority government in half a century. This throne speech is in keeping with that tradition. It deals with the local problems of individuals as well the global concerns facing us collectively.

It addresses the importance of developing our human resources on a human scale: the college student's Ontario student assistance program loan, the young couple's first home, the ability to provide care for our parents and for our children; and it addresses the management of our natural resources, the accountability of our energy suppliers, the quality of our environment. It is a throne speech for and about people and, as such, I am honoured to move its adoption.

Mr. Brown: It is an honour and a privilege to second the motion to adopt the speech from the throne.

I would like to congratulate you, sir, on your election as Deputy Speaker and I would like to commend you on the evenhanded, impartial and wise manner in which you preside over the business of this House.

I would further like to compliment the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario on the delivery of his address.

As a new member of this House, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the people of Algoma-Manitoulin for the confidence and trust they have displayed in me. I am humbled, yet proud to represent the people of Algoma-Manitoulin in this House. I am committed to serving the people of my riding, of the north and of this province diligently.

Algoma-Manitoulin was well served in this place by its member for 16 years, John Lane. John always placed the needs and concerns of his constituents and his constituency first. He worked long and hard to meet the needs of our riding and his accomplishments are present for all to see. His compassion and common sense are the hallmarks of a proud career. At present, John Lane is continuing a career of service as a consultant on Manitoulin Island.

I am pleased to be seconding the motion of the member for Eglinton (Ms. Poole). She is originally from the north, as I am originally from the south. She proudly names the fine town of Matheson as her birthplace, and today I find out she is even now from north Toronto. I know she has shared the northern experience, and her views of this great province represent the well-rounded and balanced outlook that only experience can provide.

I would like to take a few moments to describe the riding that I am privileged to represent. Algoma-Manitoulin is a large and diverse riding of incredible natural wealth and beauty. It stretches along the Trans-Canada Highway from Espanola to Algoma Mills and includes the town of Elliot Lake. The riding also includes Manitou-

lin, not only the island but also the village of Killarney, which is proudly located at the north of Georgian Bay on the mainland. The riding comprises large parts of the districts of Sudbury and Algoma and all of the district of Manitoulin.

The riding is geologically diverse. Manitoulin is an extension of the Niagara Escarpment, while the north shore boasts the rugged beauty and wealth of the Canadian Shield. Our main industries are mining, forest products, agriculture and tourism.

1530

Algoma-Manitoulin's real wealth, however, lies in its people. The multicultural nature of the riding was exemplified to me recently at a multicultural dinner in Elliot Lake. The dinner featured dishes from all parts of the world, prepared by the organization's members. It was truly an international feast.

The riding also contains a significant number of native people on its eight reserves. The Indians comprise approximately 15 per cent of the population of our riding, and they have special needs which deserve special attention. I am therefore pleased with the government's ongoing emphasis on multiculturalism.

I am further pleased with the implementation of the French Language Services Act.

I tell you these facts in order to set the context from which we in Algoma-Manitoulin view the world, Canada and Ontario, and therefore how we view the speech from the throne. We are pleased and excited that we will be part of the world-class competitive society envisioned in this speech.

Mr. Wildman: Did you say "world-class"?

Mr. Brown: Yeah, you got it.

Algoma-Manitoulin, the north and certainly all of the province will benefit from policies building on Ontario's strengths. The Premier's Council will assist in promoting our strengths through the support of the technology fund, centres of excellence and centres of entrepreneurship.

It is worthy of note that on November 23, 24, and 25 the Premier's Conference on Northern Business and Entrepreneurship will take place in Thunder Bay. Since we are all aware that small businesses are creating the bulk of jobs in this province, the encouragement and training of entrepreneurs positions the province well by promoting the job creation talents of Ontario's people.

The drive towards energy conservation is significant. To optimize the use of energy means working towards an efficient, competitive soci-

ety. An efficient provincial plant in terms of energy will augment other measures in leading Ontario further towards the competitive society that Ontario needs in the years ahead.

I am particularly pleased that greater public input will be exhibited in the development of energy policy. In the years ahead, this province's ability to compete will be directly reflected by the decisions made in the next few years regarding Ontario Hydro in particular. The characteristic openness of this government will ensure that the right decisions will be taken.

The speech recognizes that Ontario's transportation system needs to be strengthened. In competitive terms, transportation is the lifeblood of Ontario's economy and wellbeing. Efficient, good transportation is reliant on a strong provincial road infrastructure so that our people and products can move easily both within our borders and to our borders.

In the north we are also very concerned with the availability of good air service. This necessitates the building and maintenance of good airports and the assurance of good scheduled service throughout the north. In my riding, the province is actively completing an airport near Manitowaning, with the runway surfacing recently completed, and the resurfacing of a runway at Killarney has been announced.

From the northern perspective, it is imperative that by improving transportation and communications we shrink the north to bring our people and our products closer together and to bring the north closer to the major markets of southern Ontario and the world. We in the north see transportation as an important development tool.

It is interesting to note that although northern Ontario comprises over 80 per cent of the land mass of this province, it has less than 10 per cent of the population. When in addition you recognize that 75 per cent of the population resides in one of the five major cities, it means that about two per cent of the people of this province occupy 80 per cent of the land. Algoma-Manitoulin is part of these largely rural ridings.

Again, we are very concerned with transportation. My riding knows that good air service, good roads, especially improved ferry service and the application of communication technologies are keys to our economic future. Our potential and future are closely linked to transportation. We in Algoma-Manitoulin are therefore very pleased with the northern transportation initiatives put forward in the speech from the throne.

Our area boasts the finest fresh water sailing in the world. Recently, I attended the second annual

meeting of the North Channel Marine Tourism Council in Little Current—

Mr. Laughren: Yeah, they were telling me about it.

Mr. Brown: Do you like it?

Co-ordinated efforts to enhance both facilities and marketing were discussed. The potential for marine-based tourism is being realized and acted upon. I am very pleased that the province will be moving more actively in responsible development of waterfront areas.

I am encouraged by the specific references to the north in this speech. The government is continuing its commitment to northern Ontario through the continuation of its programs such as the northern Ontario regional development program. The distribution of the heritage fund and the introduction of a buy-north program will be welcome additions in aiding the economy of our area.

The continued expansion of health care services throughout the north, including recruitment of health care professionals and expanded community-based health care programs, will fundamentally improve the quality of life in northern Ontario.

Clearly, the north is being well served by a government which is active, progressive and consistent, a government that does what it says it will do.

Our future resides with our young people. The Ministry of Education's program, which will dramatically reduce class sizes in grades 1 and 2, is good news to our area as we strive to prevent an unacceptable dropout rate in our schools and better prepare our young people for a challenging, exciting future.

The program to acquire additional computers will be of great help, especially in northern areas where small boards of education have little financial manoeuvrability to make large capital expenditures on equipment. The new literacy and ability to understand and work with computers will be essential for our growth as a competitive society.

In the north we share large environmental concerns. Acid rain threatens the very existence of our forests. Since the largest economic sector in the north is the forest product sector, this threat must be dealt with with dispatch. I am heartened by Ontario's leadership in imposing tough but fair environmental legislation so that our stewardship of the resources will be a proud legacy.

I am further pleased by the provision of the loans for environmental defence fund, which will aid industry to comply with the tough new

pollution standards. The program will be of particular assistance to northern industries faced with adjustments to changing international markets at the same time that environmental controls are required.

In the recent year, we have experienced an alarming number of mine fatalities. This is unacceptable; any work-related death is unacceptable. This government has recognized this fact and will presently refer the problem to the standing committee on resources development to recommend solutions. Being from a riding which has been touched this year by untimely deaths in the mines at Elliot Lake, I believe that this committee has a heavy responsibility, which I know they will address with diligence and sincerity.

The uranium mines in Elliot Lake provide the fuel to generate in excess of 40 per cent of all the electricity in this province. The contribution of the workers and miners in Elliot Lake has been great over the years. The government's reintroduction of legislation to strengthen a worker's right to a healthy and safe work place will be augmented by the implementation of worker and community right-to-know legislation that has been previously adopted.

In other worker-related steps, I believe that the people of Algoma-Manitoulin will benefit greatly from a client-centred approach in the rehabilitation of injured workers. I look forward to enhanced methods of re-employing injured workers and to reform in the area of permanent partial disability pensions.

Of particular importance will be the government action to restore the confidence of both the employee and the employer in the Workers' Compensation Board. My office, like those of most of my colleagues, receives far too many complaints from both workers and employers about this system. The government's resolve to restore confidence is a very necessary step. Surely we can do better.

Algoma-Manitoulin, like Ontario, is adjusting to a change in demographics. Our population is ageing. We need to deal with this change in a comprehensive, compassionate approach based on assisting seniors to enjoy a full life. The enhancement of community support systems will need to continue. Services such as the integrated homemaker program will need continued expansion. We all must also be sensitive to the difficult-to-serve areas in ridings such as mine.

What seems to be one of the favourite topics of the House, the proposed Mulroney-Reisman deal, is bad news for my riding. It is not free trade, with all the philosophical and theoretical arguments which surround that, but a real deal, a bilateral trade agreement which has few pluses and many minuses.

1540

While now is not the time to explore the deal, I will give the members one example of its implications to the north, that being softwood lumber. Although this province, this Premier (Mr. Peterson), fought hard to keep the federal government from accepting a 15 per cent surcharge on our lumber, the deal was struck.

Under the proposed agreement, it appears that not only will the Americans be able to use countervail and antidumping measures at will, according to American law, but the surcharge will be made permanent under this deal. This is bad for our area and bad for all areas of Ontario and Canada which produce softwood lumber, because the 15 per cent surcharge stays even if our competitive position vis-à-vis the US deteriorates.

The deal does little to secure fair and consistent access to the American market. In effect, it institutionalizes a practice that was originally unfair and unfounded. This deal, if carried out, threatens unnecessarily our resource industry. This deal will be bad for my riding, bad for Ontario and bad for Canada. We need secure, fair access to the American market. If we do not get that, what do we get?

I look forward to the more detailed analysis which will take place once the text of this agreement becomes available.

In this speech, the government has set forth an ambitious, progressive, activist program which will be acted upon. The government has taken the initiative on a great number of fronts and will do what it says it will do within a framework of prudent fiscal responsibility. The government will continue to be open and responsive to the people and needs of Ontario.

This speech is a comprehensive outline of a forward-thinking government which will lead Ontario proudly towards the challenge of the 21st century.

On motion by Mr. Reville, the debate was adjourned.

The House adjourned at 3:43 p.m.

ERRATUM

No.	Page	Column	Line	Should read:
3	114	1	19	is a host of mini-institutions which require a

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*

(130 seats)

First Session, 34th Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. Lincoln M. Alexander, PC, QC

-
- Adams, Peter (Peterborough L)
 Allen, Richard (Hamilton West NDP)
 Ballinger, William G. (Durham-York L)
 Beer, Charles (York North L)
 Black, Kenneth H. (Muskoka-Georgian Bay L)
 Bossy, Maurice L. (Chatham-Kent L)
Bradley, Hon. James J., Minister of the Environment (St. Catharines L)
 Brandt, Andrew S. (Sarnia PC)
 Breaugh, Michael J. (Oshawa NDP)
 Brown, Michael A. (Algoma-Manitoulin L)
 Bryden, Marion H. (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
 Callahan, Robert V. (Brampton South L)
 Campbell, Sterling (Sudbury L)
Caplan, Hon. Elinor, Minister of Health (Orillia L)
 Carrothers, Douglas A. (Oakville South L)
 Charlton, Brian A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)
 Chiarelli, Robert (Ottawa West L)
 Cleary, John C. (Cornwall L)
 Collins, Shirley (Wentworth East L)
Conway, Hon. Sean G., Minister of Mines (Renfrew North L)
 Cooke, David R. (Kitchener L)
 Cooke, David S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
 Cordiano, Joseph (Lawrence L)
 Cousens, W. Donald (Markham PC)
 Cureatz, Sam L. (Durham East PC)
Curling, Hon. Alvin, Minister of Skills Development (Scarborough North L)
 Daigeler, Hans (Nepean L)
 Dietsch, Michael M. (St. Catharines-Brock L)
Eakins, Hon. John F., Minister of Municipal Affairs (Victoria-Haliburton L)
Edighoffer, Hon. Hugh A., Speaker (Perth L)
 Elliot, R. Walter (Halton North L)
Elston, Hon. Murray J., Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Bruce L)
 Epp, Herbert A. (Waterloo North L)
 Eves, Ernie L. (Parry Sound PC)
 Farnan, Michael (Cambridge NDP)
 Faubert, Frank (Scarborough-Ellesmere L)
 Fawcett, Joan M. (Northumberland L)
 Ferraro, Rick E. (Guelph L)
 Fleet, David (High Park-Swansea L)
Fontaine, Hon. René, Minister of Northern Development (Cochrane North L)
Fulton, Hon. Ed, Minister of Transportation (Scarborough East L)
 Furlong, Allan W. (Durham Centre L)
Grandmaitre, Hon. Bernard C., Minister of Revenue (Ottawa East L)
 Grier, Ruth A. (Etobicoke-Lakeshore NDP)
 Haggerty, Ray (Niagara South L)
 Hampton, Howard (Rainy River NDP)
 Harris, Michael D. (Nipissing PC)
 Hart, Christine E. (York East L)
 Henderson, D. James (Etobicoke-Humber L)
Hošek, Hon. Chaviva, Minister of Housing (Oakwood L)
 Jackson, Cameron (Burlington South PC)
 Johnson, Jack (Wellington PC)
 Johnston, Richard F. (Scarborough West NDP)
 Kanter, Ron (St. Andrew-St. Patrick L)
Kerrio, Hon. Vincent G., Minister of Natural Resources (Niagara Falls L)
 Keyes, Kenneth A. (Kingston and the Islands L)
 Kozyra, Taras B. (Port Arthur L)
Kwinter, Hon. Monte, Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Wilson Heights L)
 Laughren, Floyd (Nickel Belt NDP)
 LeBourdais, Linda (Etobicoke West L)
 Leone, Laureano (Downsview L)
 Lipsett, Ron (Grey L)
 Lupusella, Tony (Dovercourt L)
 MacDonald, Keith (Prince Edward-Lennox L)
 Mackenzie, Bob (Hamilton East NDP)
 Mahoney, Steven W. (Mississauga West L)
Mancini, Hon. Remo, Minister without Portfolio (Essex South L)
 Marland, Margaret (Mississauga South PC)
 Martel, Shelley (Sudbury East NDP)
 Matrundola, Gino (Willowdale L)
 McCague, George R. (Simcoe West PC)
 McClelland, Carman (Brampton North L)
 McGuigan, James F. (Essex-Kent L)
 McGuinty, Dalton J. (Ottawa South L)
 McLean, Allan K. (Simcoe East PC)
McLeod, Hon. Lyn, Minister of Colleges and Universities (Fort William L)
 Miclash, Frank (Kenora L)
 Miller, Gordon I. (Norfolk L)
 Morin, Gilles E. (Carleton East L)
 Morin-Strom, Karl E. (Sault Ste. Marie NDP)

Munro, Hon. Lily O., Minister of Culture and Communications (Hamilton Centre L)
 Neumann, David E. (Brantford L)
 Nicholas, Cindy (Scarborough Centre L)
 Nixon, J. Bradford (York Mills L)
Nixon, Hon. Robert F., Deputy Premier, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics and Minister of Financial Institutions (Brant-Haldimand L)
 Offer, Steven (Mississauga North L)
O'Neil, Hon. Hugh P., Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Quinte L)
 O'Neill, Yvonne (Ottawa-Rideau L)
 Owen, Bruce (Simcoe Centre L)
Patten, Hon. Richard, Minister of Government Services (Ottawa Centre L)
 Pelissero, Harry E. (Lincoln L)
Peterson, Hon. David R., Premier and President of the Council and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (London Centre L)
 Philip, Ed (Etobicoke-Rexdale NDP)
Phillips, Hon. Gerry, Minister of Citizenship (Scarborough-Agincourt L)
 Poirier, Jean, Deputy Speaker and Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House (Prescott and Russell L)
 Pollock, Jim (Hastings-Peterborough PC)
 Polsinelli, Claudio (Yorkview L)
 Poole, Dianne (Eglinton L)
 Pope, Alan W. (Cochrane South PC)
 Pouliot, Gilles (Lake Nipigon NDP)
 Rae, Bob (York South NDP)
Ramsay, Hon. David, Minister of Correctional Services (Timiskaming L)
 Ray, Michael C. (Windsor-Walkerville L)
 Reville, David (Riverdale NDP)
 Reycraft, Douglas R. (Middlesex L)
Riddell, Hon. Jack, Minister of Agriculture and Food (Huron L)
 Roberts, Marietta L. D., Deputy Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House (Elgin L)

Runciman, Robert W. (Leeds-Grenville PC)
 Ruprecht, Tony (Parkdale L)
Scott, Hon. Ian G., Attorney General (St. George-St. David L)
 Smith, David W. (Lambton L)
Smith, Hon. E. Joan, Solicitor General (London South L)
 Sola, John (Mississauga East L)
Sorbara, Hon. Gregory S., Minister of Labour (York Centre L)
 South, Larry (Frontenac-Addington L)
 Sterling, Norman W. (Carleton PC)
 Stoner, Norah (Durham West L)
 Sullivan, Barbara (Halton Centre L)
 Swart, Mel (Welland-Thorold NDP)
Sweeney, Hon. John, Minister of Community and Social Services (Kitchener-Wilmot L)
 Tatham, Charlie (Oxford L)
 Van Horne, Ronald G. (London North L)
 Velshi, Murad (Don Mills L)
 Villeneuve, Noble (Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry PC)
Ward, Hon. Christopher C., Minister of Education (Wentworth North L)
 Wildman, Bud (Algoma NDP)
Wilson, Hon. Mavis, Minister without Portfolio (Dufferin-Peel L)
 Wiseman, Douglas J. (Lanark-Renfrew PC)
Wong, Hon. Robert C., Minister of Energy (Fort York L)
Wrye, Hon. William, Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Windsor-Sandwich L)

*The alphabetical list of members appears in each issue. Lists of the members of the executive council, parliamentary assistants and members of committees, brought up to date as necessary, are published in Hansard in the first and last issues of each session and on the first sitting day of each month.

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Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario



First Session, 34th Parliament

Tuesday, November 10, 1987

Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer

Clerk of the House: Claude L. DesRosiers

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Contents of the proceedings reported in this issue of Hansard appears at the back, together with an alphabetical list of members of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, November 10, 1987

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

Prayers.

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

Mr. Speaker: I would like to take a few minutes of the House's time, because on Wednesday, November 4, 1987, the member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris) raised a question with respect to the introduction of Bill 1, An Act to provide for greater Certainty in the Reconciliation of the Personal Interests of Members of the Assembly and the Executive Council with their Duties of Office. The honourable member and the member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. D. S. Cooke) questioned whether the bill was in order because it was referred to in the speech from the throne.

It is an ancient custom that, once Parliament has been formally opened by the declaration of the causes of summons in the speech from the throne, the House may proceed upon any matter at its discretion or convenience without giving priority to the discussion of the topics included in the Lieutenant Governor's speech. As a deliberate assertion of this right, the House has, as a general rule, given first reading to a bill before proceeding to consider the speech from the throne. However, the precedents indicate that the introduction and first reading of such a bill may be delayed until after other matters if the House is of the opinion that those matters are of greater importance.

In Ontario, from 1867 to 1935, with one exception, the first bill introduced was An Act respecting the Administration of the Oaths of Office to Persons Appointed as Justices of the Peace. In all cases, this bill was a pro forma bill and contained no text. Its purpose was to assert the right of the House to proceed with its own legislation before consideration of the speech from the throne. No such bill was introduced in 1910, but 33 bills were introduced and given first reading. None of these bills was a pro forma bill and none was referred to in the speech from the throne.

After 1935, in most cases, the first bill introduced was a substantive bill and eventually passed all stages and received royal assent. In 1939, 1940, 1945, 1946 and 1947, several bills

were introduced on the first day of the session. It would appear that not all of the bills introduced were mentioned in the speeches from the throne.

In the Fifth Session of the 24th Parliament, the bill introduced on opening day was An Act to repeal the Telegraph Act. This bill was specifically referred to in the speech from the throne.

In the First Session of the 25th Parliament, the House met for one day to establish the three select committees called for in the speech from the throne and then prorogued. No bill was introduced in the session.

In the First Session of the 27th Parliament, the House met for two days. On the first day, following the speech from the throne, two motions were debated. One dealt with the printing and distribution of Hansard, the other with dispensing with the address and reply to the speech from the throne and the debate thereon. On the second day, the House established two select committees and gave first, second and third readings to An Act to assist Municipalities to Finance Capital Works. Both the select committees and the bill were referred to in the throne speech.

In the First Session of the 29th Parliament, the House met for five days. Following the speech from the throne, 12 bills were introduced, at least one of which was not referred to in the Lieutenant Governor's speech.

In the Second Session of the 30th Parliament, the House met in special session for two days. On the first day following the speech from the throne, the Metropolitan Toronto Boards of Education and Teachers Disputes Act was introduced. This bill was specifically referred to in the speech from the throne. However, on the second day of the session, the House considered and passed the Residential Premises Rent Review Act. This bill had not been referred to in the throne speech.

Finally, in 1985, on the first day of the First Session of the 33rd Parliament, An Act to revise the Family Law Reform Act was introduced. This bill was specifically referred to in the Lieutenant Governor's speech. The member for Brant-Haldimand (Mr. R. F. Nixon), then opposition House leader, raised a point of order in the House on June 6, 1985, with respect to the

introduction of Bill 1. The honourable member noted that the bill was referred to in the throne speech and that this was a departure from 300 years of parliamentary tradition.

The government House leader, Mr. Grossman, indicated that he agreed with the member for Brant-Haldimand. The point of order was not taken further. As members will note, the application of this custom or practice has varied from time to time in the Ontario Legislature. A custom or practice provides a framework for the proceedings of the House; however, the House is free to apply any custom or practice as it sees fit.

For this reason, I find that Bill 1, as introduced on November 3, 1987, is in order. However, I would ask all members to consider the history and purpose behind the ancient custom. It developed as a result of the struggle for independence of the Commons from the crown and it has an important place in the evolution of parliamentary government. For this reason, I would suggest to members and, in particular, governments of the day that they be vigilant in upholding this custom of parliament.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE

Mr. Allen: As a statement with regard to automobile insurance, I would like to read the following letter:

"I have been a driving instructor for the past four years. Recently, I left a major company to start my own small business. I arranged to insure my driver training car with State Farm Ins. My previous cars were insured in my name or with group insurance. My driving record is so squeaky clean it is almost embarrassing: a few weeks short of 28 years and never a ticket or an accident. In the last eight years, I have driven about 390,000 kilometres.

"This week State Farm terminated my insurance, effectively putting me out of business. Their reason for doing this was because of my husband's driving record. I should add that we own four cars, three in my husband's name and one in mine. My business car is in my own name and is used just for teaching. It is never driven by my husband. Personally, I thought we were out of the feudal era, but it appears I am still a chattel of my husband. My business has nothing to do with my husband.

"Insurance that cost me \$900 in 1983, \$1,150 in 1986, \$1,500 in 1987 is now quoted, when you can get an answer back from the companies, at over \$3,200. This puts me out of business because it is a great financial disadvantage

compared to other driving instructors. Why is my business penalized because of my husband?"

Unfortunately, the insurance legislation proposed by this government has no answer to the question that ends this letter.

1340

REMEMBRANCE DAY

Mr. Sterling: Tomorrow many of us will attend Remembrance Day ceremonies in our ridings. For some of our MPPs, it will be the first time that they will lay a wreath in memory as representatives of Ontario. For the past 10 years, I have attended seven or eight different ceremonies each year in my riding and this year will be no exception; yet as each year passes, I notice there are fewer and fewer veterans who attend these ceremonies.

In the Ottawa-Carleton area, most of our workforce have the day off since it is a federal government holiday. It is ironic that our public servants have a day off work while those who valiantly served our public during the wars do not share that same privilege.

There is only a small number of individuals from the Second World War who are still in the workforce, but there still are many who fought in the Korean War who must go to work tomorrow. Public servants will enjoy the day at home.

I think it would be most appropriate that we at this time recognize our veterans who risked their lives for our freedom. We believe all veterans who served in the defence of our country during these wars should be given a statutory holiday on November 11. This would give them the opportunity to attend and to participate in Remembrance Day ceremonies, but more important, it would be a small way for all of us to say "Thank you" to the men and women who were willing to put their lives on the line for us.

MISSISSAUGA CITY BOARD OF TRADE

Mr. Mahoney: I would like to bring the achievements of the Mississauga City Board of Trade to the attention of this assembly.

Under the fine direction of Bob Watson, past president, and Mrs. Lois Gibson, general manager, the Mississauga City Board of Trade won recognition from the National Association of Membership Directors for achieving the largest number of new members in 1987, totalling an additional 450 members. This recognition encompasses both Canada and the United States. The board, in its 12th year, has 2,700 members.

During this past August, they also opened up a new business club at 3 Robert Speck Parkway,

which allows members to meet one another outside of a business atmosphere in a formal dining-room while also providing complete business facilities for meetings.

I recently attended the annual president's dinner and met the new president, Fred Trouten. I am sure the Mississauga City Board of Trade will continue its initiative and involvement in Mississauga under his direction.

I feel we should recognize the superb work done by the Mississauga City Board of Trade during 1987 as well as the various other boards of trade and chambers of commerce within the province.

TRADE WITH UNITED STATES

Mr. Laughren: In recent weeks there have been statements by the most senior executives of both Inco and Falconbridge that free trade will be good for the mining industry in northern Ontario.

I can understand why Inco and Falconbridge would say that, but they perhaps should have included a further remark that what they really want is a continuation of the past. What they really want is to be able to continue to extract the ore as fast as they can get it out and sell it off as quickly as they can sell it.

If we want a future for northern Ontario that is not a repeat of the past, we do not want free trade. If we want a future that includes tough environmental controls, includes regional development programs, includes requirements that companies such as Falconbridge process the minerals in Ontario and not offshore, and includes the right to set our own stumpage fees, then we do not want free trade.

A free trade agreement would rule out regional development subsidies. A free trade agreement would make environmental controls more difficult than they are now and would make it extremely difficult to require that a company such as Falconbridge process its ores in Sudbury rather than in Norway. Quite simply, free trade would surely take the economic decisions out of our hands and put them in the hands of the marketplace.

ANNUAL REPORT, MINISTRY OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES

Mr. J. M. Johnson: I would like to bring to the attention of this House a glaring error in the 1986-87 annual report of the Ministry of Government Services. The acting minister, the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway), who also held the position of Minister of Education at that time and under whose name this report was

released, should be ashamed to have approved this document with such a blatant inaccuracy.

I am referring to the map on page 12 of this document, the annual report. I will also send a copy over to the minister for his information. This is a map of Ontario showing the property management division district and area offices of the Ministry of Government Services. It is quite obvious that the counties of Haldimand and Norfolk are in the wrong places. In fact, they have been switched so that Long Point appears in Haldimand, which as we all know is not so.

Just in case the former minister does not recall this from his earlier days in grade school, I will also send him copies of maps of Haldimand and Norfolk counties from the historical atlas showing their correct locations. It is a shame that this annual report will have to be reprinted at the expense of the taxpayers of Ontario, all because the former Minister of Education could not remember his geography. I am sure the new minister will do a much better job.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

Mr. Daigeler: Born south of Munich one month before the close of the Second World War as the grandson of a German army doctor in the First World War and the son of a German military officer in the Second World War, I salute in deep respect and gratitude my fellow Canadians who gave their lives for freedom and democracy.

Mr. Speaker, that I can stand in this chamber today as the representative for Nepean and honour with you the sacrifice of Canadians is a symbol of hope. It proves the strength of our political institutions and, at the same time, signifies the rebirth of a dignified post-war Germany.

En déplorant les abus d'un nationalisme aberrant, je me réjouis du fait que des femmes et des hommes courageux des deux pays ont su transformer la souffrance du passé en un avenir de justice, de liberté et de paix.

Learning from the past, let us accept the challenge of peace today and renew our commitment to enhance the dignity and rights of all human beings.

Mr. Speaker: Are there any other member's statements? The member for Cambridge for 23 seconds.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH SERVICES

Mr. Farnan: As the father of a child who received intensive-care treatment at Chedoke-McMaster Hospital, I want to express to the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan) how important

it is for parents and for their child that this treatment take place in a hospital that permits parents and child to be together through a period of great anxiety and pain.

Mr. Speaker: The member's time has expired.

Hon. Mr. Conway: We would be happy to give the member some additional time.

Mr. Speaker: All right.

Agreed to.

Mr. Farnan: I appreciate that.

During the last months of my child's short life, my wife and I were able to be close to her and to support her because she received wonderful care and treatment in a hospital within our health region. The current situation at Chedoke-McMaster has resulted in some instances of children from Cambridge and St. Catharines being referred as far away as Ottawa in eastern Ontario for treatment.

I urge the minister and her ministry to address this issue. I ask her to find a rapid resolution to this problem. Her ministry has already delayed for too long responding to the urgency of this situation. For the children's sake, I ask her, please act now.

1350

REMEMBRANCE DAY

Hon. Mr. Eakins: Mr. Speaker, I believe it would be appropriate to ask unanimous consent of the House so that I might make some remarks in regard to Remembrance Day.

Mr. Speaker: Is there consent?

Agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Eakins: Tomorrow, November 11, Canadians of all generations across Canada will pause to pay tribute to and to honour all the brave individuals who served and gave their all that we might live in freedom today. On behalf of the Premier (Mr. Peterson), I would like to express the government of Ontario's respect and gratitude.

Canadian men and women have always responded quickly and with determination to defend the freedom and way of life that we enjoy today. This way of life is their memorial, our freedom is their legacy and the realization of world peace is the best monument that we can erect in their honour.

For many people in this province and this country, war is something remote, other than the viewing of special television programs of the remembrance of Vimy, Dieppe, D-Day, etc. We have throughout our province and, yes, within

the Ontario public service and within this building, those men and women who served with distinction, were decorated. There are also those who know only too well the horrors of it all through confinement in prisoner-of-war or concentration camps.

In urging the twinning of sister communities throughout the world, General Eisenhower said at the close of the Second World War, "We have learned to win the war, but we have never learned to win the peace." Our obligation is both to keep alive the memory of those who served and to do everything within our power to be windows to the world in international friendship and understanding.

Tomorrow, Remembrance Day, we have that opportunity, appreciatively, through the leadership of our comrades of the Royal Canadian Legion, to express our gratitude and to take it to those to whom we owe a tremendous debt. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.

Mr. Mackenzie: With respect to Remembrance Day, few Canadian families were not touched by the loss of loved ones in the two great wars and the Korean conflict. The grief felt so strongly by the families and loved ones of those who paid the supreme price has been slow to fade, yet fade it does. It takes a little longer for those who did come back, with their broken bodies and lost limbs.

My dad's older brother was one of those who went off to France in the First World War and did not come back. Beyond the grief, the strongest legacy felt by those who knew him and those who were born later and only heard of him is best described by a comment of one family member who simply said, "What a terrible waste."

Surely if there is a lesson for all of us, it is to reflect on what a terrible waste is the loss of lives in the horror and ferocity of war. I am personally pleased that the Royal Canadian Legion in Hamilton and across Ontario and Canada has promoted the poppies that we all wear and continues to hold Remembrance Day ceremonies which we all attend in order to keep alive the memories of comrades lost. It reminds us of the debt that we all owe to those who answered the call to defend their country.

It is extremely important that we understand the selflessness of those who paid with their lives. It is equally important that in remembering them we understand that we are not glorifying the horrors of war, that rather we decry the wasteful destruction and the loss of lives and limbs. The torch we must grasp from fallen comrades is that

such inhumanity of man to man must never happen again. If this is the focus, then I am sure their sacrifice will not have been in vain. The phrase "We shall remember them" will have some real meaning.

Mr. Brandt: Sixty-nine years ago today, the First World War came to an end. During this war, the Second World War and the Korean War, 100,000 Canadians lost their lives and thousands more were wounded in a valiant effort to protect our nation as well as democracy in the world. One hundred thousand Canadians perished, but their dreams did not die with them. The cause for which these men fought so dearly is one that we have a duty to uphold. As we live freely in our democratic society, let us remember that these lives were not lost in vain.

I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of my party, to pay homage to those honourable citizens who gave so much to protect and defend this great nation. Their wisdom and fortitude have allowed Canadians to live in freedom and in peace.

Tomorrow being Remembrance Day, I ask the members to remember the legacy that was left to us, the legacy of peace, order and the right to live as we choose. We cannot take these liberties for granted. Looking at the world around us, we know the liberties that we in this country and in this province take for granted on occasion are not universal liberties.

Words cannot express the gratitude and respect we hold for our veterans. Only a retention of our cherished heritage and traditional beliefs can. Their hopes and dreams live on in a nation committed to upholding the rights of its citizens. The efforts of our forbears have helped mould a greater awareness of the importance of their cause.

Today let us honour Canada's heroes and give them our heartfelt gratitude for what they have given us, but let us remember as well that their work is still not completed. There are still wars being fought and lives being lost around the world. If we can do nothing else today, let us pray that one day soon the war to end all wars becomes a reality and we can all enjoy a world of peace and prosperity.

Mr. Speaker: It would seem to me most fitting if I could ask all members to rise for one minute's silence in remembrance of those who gave their lives.

The House observed one minute's silence.

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: I wish to announce increases amounting to \$82.6 million in the benefits paid to recipients of Ontario's family benefits and general welfare assistance programs, to take effect in January 1988.

These increases will ensure that the purchasing power of social assistance benefits in Ontario stays ahead of increases in the cost of living since the last general rate increase of January 1987.

The major item is a five per cent, across-the-board increase in basic allowances for all family benefits and general welfare assistance recipients. In addition, I am announcing an eight per cent increase in maximum shelter subsidy benefits. The shelter subsidy is an amount paid in addition to the basic allowances and is intended to assist those clients faced with higher shelter costs.

These increases are being announced at a time when the rate of inflation stands at 4.5 per cent.

I am also announcing a \$25 increase in the maximum handicapped children's benefit, which will be raised from \$275 to \$300 a month. The handicapped children's benefit is provided to low- and middle-income parents caring for a severely handicapped child at home.

The increases represent the continuation of a two-part strategy the provincial government has adopted since 1985 with respect to improvements in our social assistance system. The first part of this strategy has been to substantially improve the benefit levels. The second part has been to reform outdated aspects of the system. I would now like to elaborate on each of these.

1400

Since I became Minister of Community and Social Services, the government has announced, on five separate occasions, major improvements to social assistance benefit levels. Including the \$82.6 million I am announcing today, those five improvements represent a 22.5 per cent increase over three years in social assistance benefit levels, well ahead of increases in the cost of living.

I would like to provide some case examples to illustrate, in dollar terms, what these improvements mean.

When I became minister in 1985, a family of four receiving general welfare assistance was receiving a maximum allowance of \$762 per month. Including the increase I am announcing today, that figure will be \$1,043.

In 1985, a single disabled person in this province was expected to live on a maximum allowance of \$519 per month. That figure will rise to \$693.

As a final example, in 1985, a sole-support parent with two children aged 10 to 15 was receiving a maximum of \$767 per month. That figure will rise to \$993.

When you add the value of all the benefits provided by the federal and provincial governments as of January 1988, that sole-support parent will be receiving approximately \$15,500 per year.

In addition to continuing to make improvements in benefit levels, the second part of the government's strategy has involved making fundamental changes to a system which we all know is out of date. The Social Assistance Review Committee chaired by George Thomson has already provided the government with advice that assisted in the removal of the archaic spouse-in-the-house rule.

The government is looking forward to receiving the final report and recommendations of the Social Assistance Review Committee in the early part of next year.

The amount of concentrated effort that so many people have put into the review process will, I am certain, be reflected in the contents of the report.

The committee has visited 14 communities, received some 1,500 briefs and submissions, and commissioned numerous research reports.

Once the review committee is satisfied with the range and quality of its recommendations, we can expect a report of considerable scope and magnitude that will be used as the recent speech from the throne promised, to redesign our system of social assistance so that we can better enable individuals to achieve independence in Ontario.

RESPONSES

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Mr. Allen: I am quite certain that the 270,000 recipients of family benefits and the 500,000 others who are dependent on social assistance from this government appreciate at least whatever help the minister can give them.

However, I would want in the first instance to call attention to the fact that most of the groups involved in those that are being addressed by this announcement were hoping that the minister would reach something such as a 25 per cent increase in the rates in order to meet their real needs and to catch up with past losses in effect

that they have been subject to, notwithstanding a certain increase that does not disguise the losses.

Last March or April, I believe, when Mr. Thomson, as chairman of the review committee that is examining the social assistance payment structure and the delivery system of that in this province, asked that the minister, in the interim awaiting his report, do something to help these very people, I am sure he had something much more substantial in mind when he made that request.

If we look at two or three specific programs that the minister has referred to, the handicapped children's benefit is really an impossible program. It provides such a small proportion of the real costs that families with handicapped children in fact have in maintaining them in their homes that it might better have been done away with and something else put in its place, if only some more guaranteed access to the special needs program that is at least more generous and is an alternative for many of those families.

If one looks, for example, at the new increased amount of \$1,043 that is being offered to the family of four on general welfare assistance in 1985, I am certain that people on that program in Toronto would find it difficult to find adequate two- or three-bedroom housing for that family in any apartment block in most of the city that I am familiar with that would cost much less than that amount of money; it would cost possibly more. So what one is talking about in fact in terms of moving towards real independence is a figure which really provides about 50 per cent of independence and not 100 per cent of it in any sense of the word.

I wonder why the minister, for example when he is dealing with the benefits for single disabled persons in this province, did not take advantage of this opportunity to wipe out the difference that we have all known had to disappear, the difference between the schedules for the guaranteed annual income system for the aged and the guaranteed annual income system for the disabled. Even with the minister's announcement, there is still a \$60 gap or something of that order, if my memory serves me correctly, and I would have hoped this would be the occasion when he could have wiped out that difference, which we have all sought for some time.

Finally, I think the main comment has to be that one hopes the minister will not only introduce the report to this body that Mr. Thomson is making at the earliest moment it is available, but that at that time the minister will also indeed embark on a major overhaul of social

assistance payments in this province so that we may move in fact from the measure of poverty to some sense of a measure of adequacy.

Poverty is a kind of negative criterion. We just simply do not want people narrowly to escape being poor in this province; we want people to have a sense that the supports they are entitled to give them a sense of adequacy and acceptance and a broad participation in our community that is enabled by that funding.

I would hope, and we would all hope in this caucus, that the minister will take the next earliest opportunity to really tackle this problem.

Mrs. Marland: At the outset, when you know there is a statement being made on increases for social assistance recipients in a year such as we have had in this province in 1987, you might think that you would be able to get quite enthusiastic and quite excited on behalf of those people.

However, I must say that I do not find the announcement at all exciting. I am disappointed that when the minister says he has had a 22.5 per cent increase over the past three years, he seems to have mentioned that in his announcement as being something worth recognizing. I would really challenge that, when in those same three years the government's revenue has increased in excess of 35 per cent.

I also find it interesting that there is a reference to the fact that there is an eight per cent increase in the maximum shelter subsidy benefits. I think that is an area, if the minister wants to get out of Disney World and into the real world, where perhaps he should find out what shelter costs. Perhaps in that area he might find some very real assistance if he met with the Minister of Housing (Ms. Hošek) and came to a better solution for these people who in fact require the subsidy in the first place.

I also have to wonder when he talks about the monthly allowance for the disabled in this province and what that figure will rise to. I notice that my colleague from the New Democratic Party has also referred to the Gains-A and the Gains-D question of those recipients. I wonder what that figure would rise to if in fact this government had been totally honest in passing through the money which the federal government allocated to those eligible people in that category. In fact, I am still wondering where the \$100 per recipient has gone in that particular category alone in 1987.

I also feel I must comment on the controversial spouse-in-the-house rule. I hope the minister is not moving too quickly in that particular area. I

notice it is something that has been given to him from the committee, apparently in advance of its final report. I understand it may be difficult to administer and I understand the costs may go up, but most important I understand there is a great deal of concern by people in the field about whether in fact that is the route to go.

I respectfully suggest that before we leap, as the minister says, into the removal of the archaic spouse-in-the-house rule, we know very well what the consequences of that may be.

Finally, I have to say that in the real world in Ontario in 1987, where this government had in excess of \$1 billion, I think this announcement is a sham in terms of real support for the people who really need it.

1410

ORAL QUESTIONS

WINE INDUSTRY

Mr. B. Rae: My question is to the Premier. I wonder whether the Premier is aware that the agreement initialled by Canada's free trade negotiators and by the representatives of the American government calls, on pages 15 and 16, for some very specific measures to be carried out by provincial governments with respect to wine and spirits. Is it the intention of the government of Ontario to implement the specific requirements of the agreement as they relate to listing practices, pricing practices, distribution practices and blending requirements? Is the government of Ontario going to implement those parts of the agreement?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: This is the same question my honourable friend has asked me before. As I said to my honourable friend then, and I will say to him again, we are not prepared to stand by and see the wine industry and/or the grape growers wiped out. As he knows, they have some similar interests and some different interests.

That being said, my honourable friend will be aware that there is an impending General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade decision with respect to our wine distribution practices and possibly beer as well. We have to consider this entire matter in the context of all the, shall I call them, assaults on that particular sector of our economy. In addition, there is one more my honourable friend will be aware of and that is a potential section 301 action under the US trade law against our wine industry that could seek retaliatory action against our distillery industry. So we have to think it all out in that context.

In broad terms, let me say to my friend that we are against the agreement. Obviously, we are not

going to sign anything to implement that accord. That is why, with respect to the particular question of the grape growers, we have to think about it in the context of all the assaults they are receiving.

Mr. B. Rae: First of all, the Premier is not going to be asked to sign anything.

Second, can the Premier tell us if he was aware of the section 301 action and the GATT action when he was in the Niagara Peninsula during the election? In particular, was he aware of those two particular actions and their potential impact on the wine industry when he was standing in the shade, sipping grape juice in the Niagara Peninsula and shaking hands with Brian Nash, saying to Mr. Nash, "OK, we will shake hands on that one," referring to Mr. Nash's statement, "Don't sell us out on free trade"?

I wonder whether the Premier can tell us if he was aware of those two actions, and if he was, does he not think it is a little bit dishonest to go into the Niagara Peninsula and say "I am not going to sell you out on free trade," when he is perfectly aware of other actions that can be taken against the industry and he does not even have the courage and the forthrightness to state what those problems are in the middle of an election campaign? Does the Premier not think that?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: In the middle of the campaign, I discussed those very matters with Mr. Nash.

Mr. B. Rae: We have culled the files and I do not recall having seen one statement by the Premier in a public manner whatsoever dealing specifically with those questions.

As my final supplementary to the Premier, is he telling us today it is the intention of Ontario not to implement the Wine Content Act with respect to 1988? Is that what he is announcing today?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: There are a number of issues that attach to the wine question. One is the Wine Content Act, one is the markups, one is listing practices and one is in the context of a potential GATT ruling. All those things have to be taken into account.

We are in discussions with the grape growers, the wineries and a variety of other people. We will be doing everything we possibly can to assist those particular people. That is a different issue from the so-called bilateral trade agreement that the federal government wants to promote with the United States. We are not prepared to sell out our grape growers under that agreement.

INCINERATORS

Mrs. Grier: I have a question for the Premier. Yesterday, the member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. D. S. Cooke) raised with the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley) the question of the incinerators that are being built in Detroit. The minister said, and I quote, "It is Ontario that is in the courts of the United States...fighting for the people of Essex county, fighting for the people of Windsor."

I wonder whether the Premier can explain to the House why his government is not in the courts of Ontario fighting to protect the citizens of Toronto from the dioxins that are being spewed out daily by the Commissioner Street incinerator right here in the city of Toronto.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: First, let me convey the profound apologies of my colleague the Minister of the Environment, who enjoys very much the daily exchanges he has with the member on these matters. He is far more knowledgeable, as the member will be aware, than I am on these matters.

I know the Minister of the Environment has taken a very keen interest in this particular question. He is looking at a regulation with respect to incinerators that I gather has been around for some 19 years. Is it regulation 308? I could be wrong in that number. As the member knows, the minister has taken some very definitive action with respect to closing down apartment incinerators and a lot of other areas in that regard.

I guess I read the same story the member did in the Toronto Star today with respect to that particular incinerator, but I can tell the member that the minister is very much aware of that and is working on it and with new regulations that pertain not only to that but also to other incinerators.

Mrs. Grier: I would just like to say to the Premier that I raised the question with him not because I wished to deny the Minister of the Environment any enjoyment of my questions, but because I think the questions I am posing relate to policy of the government of which the Premier is the head.

I want to ask my supplementary question with relation to a questionnaire that the Premier filled in during the recent election campaign, the one put out by the Project for Environmental Priorities. When the Premier was asked whether he would support a moratorium on incinerators, his response was no, he would not support a moratorium because environmental assessments

would ensure that all new incinerators would be free of toxic contamination.

What I want to find out from the Premier, who said no to a moratorium, is why his government has not done anything to deal with existing incinerators. There was never an environmental assessment for the Commissioner Street incinerator, but the government does have the power to close it down and has made no moves to do so.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I say to my honourable friend that I do not think she is being quite fair in the way she has characterized this. My honourable colleague the Minister of the Environment has indeed banned apartment incinerators, which is a major step forward. He is looking at the regulations on airborne pollutants in that regard. He has brought in major new recycling programs to get to the root of this.

If the member is suggesting that we go in tomorrow and close down that incinerator, and I appreciate her advice if that is what it is, then she will obviously have some alternatives with respect to disposing of the waste that goes through there.

Mrs. Grier: I recognize that there are alternatives and that those alternatives are being worked on, but not sufficiently hard enough, and there are a number of alternatives that are not being explored.

What I want the Premier to recognize and what I would ask him to acknowledge is the hypocrisy of boasting about the actions that are being taken in the United States against incinerators that country may be planning to build, boasting about centres of excellence and high technology here in Ontario, and yet tolerating, almost on the very doorstep of this Legislature, an incinerator that is decrepit and obsolete. Where is the logic and where is the consistency in that kind of an approach?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I would say to my friend that she has tried to bring a lot of unrelated matters together to make her point. She is not happy with our centres of excellence, not happy with our centres of entrepreneurship and a number of programs we are undertaking with respect to excellence in education. That is fine if my honourable friend disapproves of that.

But I say to my friend that there is a problem. As I understand it, that incinerator is not violating the current guidelines, but on the other hand, that does not mean for a moment that we should not be improving those guidelines and my honourable friend is doing that. I am sure the member will acknowledge, even though the problems exist, that this minister has taken a very

activist and creative approach to solving those problems. I think it is very easy for her to say in opposition, as she constantly will, that whatever we do is not enough. But I ask her to compare it to any reasonable standard in this country or in the United States and I think she will see that Ontario is viewed as a leader in North America with respect to environmental controls.

1420

EMPLOYMENT ADJUSTMENT

Mr. Brandt: In the last couple of days, the Premier, through his government, released a world-class study relating to free trade in which some comments were made to the effect that 100,000 jobs would be at risk in Ontario, that those jobs were primarily in textiles and in certain types of manufacturing and, further, that those jobs would be primarily female jobs.

Now, the Premier, being someone who at one time had at least some modest interest in an importation company that was involved in purchasing from other countries in the world, will know full well that this particular industry, primarily textiles, is under attack not from the United States primarily, and in the context of a free trade agreement would not be under attack at some future point from the US, but is in fact being competitively challenged by countries such as South Korea, Taiwan, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and many other countries, some of which are Third World countries, which are now getting into that business.

Would the Premier not agree that those 100,000 jobs that were identified in the study that was released—that world-class study that we received in the last couple of days—would in fact be at risk with or without free trade?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I think the object of the study was as it relates to that particular binational agreement that is coming by. Obviously, we live in an international trading atmosphere; obviously, we have to consider our place on the globe, not just in North America.

The current studies that are going on, I say to my honourable friend, are in the context of a bilateral, binational agreement—the so-called free trade agreement—and what we are trying to do, as best we can in the circumstances, is to quantify the effects of that, both positive and negative. That is one study. There will be other studies as well that try to determine that.

My honourable friend is suggesting that we have to trade in the world. I would agree with my honourable friend, and admittedly, there are lots of assaults from many corners of the globe. But

what we are looking at is the so-called free trade agreement and the specific effects on our economy.

Mr. Brandt: Recognizing there are these competitive difficulties that we have from low-wage countries, and taking the position that I do, which may be contrary to the Premier's, that in fact many of these jobs would be at risk with or without a free trade agreement as a direct result of some of the situations that are developing on a global scale, particularly as they relate to textiles, footwear and other industries, are the Premier and his government prepared to move quickly to assist some of these workers to upgrade their skills, to advance to some of the new technologies that may be necessary to find some different types of employment in the future, recognizing that some of those jobs will be lost with or without free trade?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I think what my honourable friend fails to understand is that this country has methods for controlling imports from some of the so-called Third World countries he is talking about, particularly from the Pacific Rim.

He will know, I am sure, that a lot of the emerging countries—countries such as Jamaica and many others—are making a full assault into the textile business and many others, but we have methods to control those imports. Essentially, they function under national quotas now.

I do not think my honourable friend would want to confuse the two. Yes, we always have to consider our competitive position vis-à-vis any country in the world. But every country also has the sovereign right to protect its own markets, should it so choose, from any imports from any other country.

Yes, to my honourable friend's question, there are job dislocations going on daily, weekly and monthly in this province. We have some of the most comprehensive programs in this country today to deal with those. We have introduced Transitions and a variety of others; we have a training strategy in this province that is considered a leader. But it is interesting that the federal government, which with one stroke of its treaty-making pen could wipe out literally hundreds of thousands of jobs in this country, has yet to come forward with one cent in terms of a special adjustment, with one new program in terms of adjustment.

I think my friend—a strong proponent, I gather, of the free trade agreement as has been presented to this House—would want to stand up and defend it and say, "What is the federal government going

to do for those people who will be dislocated as a result of that agreement?"

Mr. Brandt: The federal government was prepared to enter into an agreement with the province relative to new skills training programs and it was this government that delayed that particular program for up to a year and has held back the money that would be forthcoming on a joint basis from the federal government. The federal government is, in fact, prepared to assist and the Premier knows that is the case.

The question I put is, in a competitive environment such as we have at the moment in Canada and in Ontario, and recognizing that the textile industry, the footwear industry and some light manufacturing industries are at risk as a result of international competitiveness—which has absolutely nothing to do with free trade but has to do with the importation of low-priced goods from other countries—is this government, recognizing that this is a problem, prepared to make some anticipatory moves to help some of these workers make an adjustment well before the time occurs when it is an absolute crisis?

We are trying to avoid the kind of thing we have raised a number of times in the House, with respect to the housing crisis developing in Ontario which this government is doing very little, if anything, about. We are trying to get the government to move on this situation when there is a—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The question has been asked.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: My honourable friend asked me a second supplementary, and I will try to assist again. He will be aware that the federal government has actually been cutting back in the last year or two in terms of the real dollar transfers with respect to training. I am sure my honourable friend will want to check that out, because he is such a strong proponent.

Now he is standing in this House and asking me to train workers who are going to get laid off, maybe, as a result of some deal that is going to be imposed by the federal government. Would it not be more constructive—

Mr. Brandt: I did not say they were going to be laid off as a result of the deal.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Now he has said they are not going to be laid off, so what is the point of his question? Either they are going to be laid off or they are not going to be laid off. He is saying he wants it both ways.

In fairness, I say to my honourable friend, he wants to get precisely on top of the question he

wants to ask and then I will try to give an answer. Are they or are they not going to be laid off? If he thinks they are going to be laid off, why would he not go to his federal colleagues and say, "Assist with those people you are going to lay off"? If they are not going to be laid off, what is the point of the question?

ONTARIO HOME OWNERSHIP SAVINGS PLAN

Mr. Cousens: I have a question for the Minister of Housing. Last week, outside the Legislature, the minister indicated that the Ontario home ownership savings plan would be made available before the end of this year, so it would be available in the 1987 taxation year. Would the minister indicate in the Legislature that this plan will be instituted in time for the 1987 tax year?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: The home ownership savings plan, which was announced in the election campaign, is supposed to be coming forward soon. I did not indicate a specific date.

Mr. Cousens: In the *Globe and Mail* of November 4, 1987, the minister indicated that very thing. She had better start reading the paper or maybe there is something wrong with the facts she is giving.

Let me enlighten the minister on some startling facts from Metropolitan Toronto home buyers. First, someone living right now in a two-bedroom apartment which is not government subsidized pays roughly \$966 per month. The average price per home in Metropolitan Toronto next year will be approximately \$200,000. A person making \$40,000 per year will not be eligible for a mortgage.

I would like to ask the minister what kind of home she expects anyone to purchase in 10 years with the \$10,000 savings plan the government is offering, assuming this program will be in place in the near future?

1430

Hon. Ms. Hošek: The Ontario home ownership savings plan is one feature of a variety of strategies that we are going to be using to make housing more affordable for more people in Ontario. The other parts of the strategy have been detailed here before. They include, in particular, more creative and innovative use of land.

Mr. Cousens: Will the minister tell us what her other strategies are?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I gather there are several people who are a little impatient with the member across the way, who seems to be hard of hearing.

We have listed a variety of methods we are going to be using. Let me simply highlight the one that has the most impact, and that is new strategies for the use of land.

While I have the floor, may I point out to the member across the way that one important way of increasing the supply of affordable housing is through building nonprofit housing in our various communities. Our government has used the nonprofit method in partnership with nonprofit housing corporations across the province. However, for some reason the town of Markham, from which our member seems to come, has no such nonprofit housing corporation. I wonder if I can get the agreement of the member opposite to work hard with his friends and colleagues on municipal council to make sure there will be a nonprofit housing corporation in Markham soon.

HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION

Mr. Pouliot: I have a question for the Minister of Transportation. The minister will be only too aware of my consistent efforts to have his ministry four-lane the portion of the Trans-Canada Highway in northern Ontario. He must be very much aware of the carnage, the petitions, the letters, and yet we have not received a commitment from his ministry.

What timetable approach has he undertaken so that northerners will be the beneficiaries of an impact in terms of tourism, in terms of safety and also in terms of economic development in the north?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: I thank my friend the member for Lake Nipigon for his question. I share his concern for the Trans-Canada Highway and other highways of equal importance to the economic and tourism development and for the regional needs across the province for that road and others.

The member would be aware that the Trans-Canada Highway, Highway 17, stretches some 2,000 kilometres from Manitoba to Quebec. Within that distance, there are tremendous pressures on this government to improve and, in some cases, widen Highway 17, known as the Trans-Canada.

I undertook some time ago—and the member would be aware—to have my staff review as quickly as possible and to the best of their ability a study to see what it would cost. Recent figures indicate that some \$3 billion would be needed in 1987 dollars to commence a widening project. I would point out the pressures in the areas we are working in around Ottawa in Arnprior, Sudbury,

Wawa, Nipigon, Thunder Bay and Kenora. We are not ignoring Highway 17, the Trans-Canada.

I remind my friend that we also approached our federal counterparts, who indeed participated in the original construction of the Trans-Canada Highway back in the 1950s, to participate in some joint-venture funding. I can tell him that the federal Minister of Transport, as recently as this summer, has said no.

Mr. Wildman: He said you did not ask him.

Hon. Mr. Fulton: That is not true; we did.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Interjections are out of order.

Mr. Pouliot: The minister is a conjuror of illusions, nothing short of that. No wonder his federal counterpart will not fund a highway. The analogy or the parallel, with respect, is that of a young lad wanting a beat-up Ford for his 16th birthday and on the eve of that birthday changing his mind for a Ferrari.

This minister asked the federal minister for \$2.7 billion. I suspect he knew very well that under those circumstances there was not a chance in hell that the northerners would have the benefit that they, southerners, are taking for granted.

I am asking the minister to be patient. On a timetable, will he please give us a commitment that he means what he says and that he will start, step by step, giving us a four-lane highway in northwestern Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Fulton: I am not sure what the member's first comments were. I could not hear them, but I think he said he is mad at me or he likes me; I am not sure which.

With respect to the fatalities, and I think the member's word was "carnage," on our highways, while I do not pretend for a moment to take credit for it, but certainly everyone in Ontario may—the police departments, our ministries and others—in 1986 we had the lowest number of fatalities on Ontario's highways since 1954. It is something I am very proud of.

We have indeed asked the federal government to participate in a massive project. We are attempting to widen, as our friend in the front benches is well aware, through Sault Ste. Marie, which is his priority for widening Highway 17. He might want to negotiate something there, but the member has my assurance that this government will do, as it has done. The Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) has provided more funds for roads and highways in this province than the member has ever seen. We will continue with the passing lanes, the restructures, the shoulder widenings

and all of those other things which make passage on our Ontario highways safe.

RENT REGULATION

Mr. Jackson: I have a question for the Minister of Housing. I would like to continue to pursue and bring into full public view the issues surrounding the nightmare we know as Bill 51.

We have engaged for four days in this House in trying to get at the points of the problems with this bill. We have not gotten the straight answers we had hoped for. The media, fortunately, have been able to take those questions and ask them of her ministry. We have been able to establish the numbers of outstanding applications. We have been able to establish several other facts—that the backlog will take over a year now to complete.

My question today to the minister is, after being on the job for six weeks, has she asked her ministry staff if one single section 74 or section 82 whole-building review has been done at any level within her four regional offices or her 21 field offices? In 11 months, has her ministry been able to bring at least one order in this province in those two categories to be able to issue an order?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: The rent review process is going more slowly than we wanted, but let me tell the member today that we are going to be adding staff to the tune of a 35 per cent increase in the staff that is currently handling rent review applications, and that will considerably speed up the process.

Mr. Jackson: It is important, if the minister is going to continue to increase staff, that they know exactly what they are doing. I have been bringing to the floor of the Legislature a ministry document that she persists in not making public. Specifically, I have advised this House that in Toronto 44 per cent of all the applications are for 25 per cent or greater. In North York, 35 per cent of all applications are in excess of 25 per cent.

There is one jurisdiction in all of Ontario that is unique. It would appear that there are 511 buildings her ministry is unable to categorize in terms of what the requested increase is going to be. They just disappeared off her statistics. It is unusual because that means that in this community 66 per cent of all the buildings are unaccounted for; so even if the ministry hires the staff—

Mr. Speaker: The question is?

Mr. Jackson: Why is it that in Scarborough, the community where the minister's predecessor was the Minister of Housing, there are 511 buildings unaccounted for in any category, and why was all information about Scarborough

stopped from public access before the provincial election?

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Hon. Ms. Hošek: The matter of the buildings that seem to have disappeared from the record is entirely new to me. I will talk to the ministry officials to discover what, if anything, has happened there.

HOURS OF WORK

Mr. Mackenzie: I have a question for the Minister of Labour. Is the minister aware of the extent of overtime currently in some departments at Stelco? For example, does he know that in the iron-making mechanical department 185 workers for the first eight months of this year have worked 25,227 hours of overtime? In spite of that, 25 people have just been shifted out of that department. Is he aware that in the steam-generation utilities, in October alone, 32 people worked 106 shifts of overtime totalling 1,848 hours, one worker working 11 overtime shifts in that period?

Will he investigate this excessive use of overtime, when all those on summer recall have been laid off and when there are large numbers of workers on layoff in that plant?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I am not aware of the particular use of overtime that my friend the member for Hamilton East is referring to. Obviously, I am going to look at it to see if it warrants investigation. The larger question is one that I think this House is very familiar with. My friend from Hamilton East is aware the government is considering a new approach to overtime as a result of work done in the Donner study. When we have completed that work, we will be bringing proposals, first to cabinet and then to the House, in the form of amendments to the Employment Standards Act.

As to the particular instance, I know the degree to which my friend can get exercised about that. I will make note of the particular instances and if they warrant coming back with a response on the matter, I will do that.

Mr. Mackenzie: The minister will also be aware of the Donner committee he referred to, which was set up better than a year ago now. It was at first, hopefully, to report last spring and then last fall. I understand that report is in; I am not even sure the follow-up report is not in. I am wondering if he can tell us when this House is going to see the result of that committee's study. Not only would members on this side of the House like to see that report, but some members of the committee the government commissioned

would like to see it dealt with in this House too and are beginning to wonder if it was not a bit of a runaround.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: It was not a runaround at all; it was, is and will continue to be a very serious exercise. I recall that my colleague the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) last session about this time said "before the next full moon." I have not looked at the lunar calendar, but it should not be too far after the next full moon.

REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF DURHAM

Mr. Cureatz: I have a question of the Premier. Before I do that, Mr. Speaker, may I congratulate you on your appointment again as Speaker. I had the opportunity a time long ago of serving in a similar capacity and I can appreciate the fine line you have to walk. May I add, though, if you have not noticed, that there are a fair number of newcomers to this assembly. Once they learn the ropes and become a little more rambunctious, I am sure you will in your capacity hold a stern fist and make sure all members—

Mr. Speaker: I appreciate the comments. You do have a question?

Mr. Cureatz: May I also congratulate the Premier on his election on September 10 and his victory. During the campaign, as the Premier criss-crossed Ontario, I am wondering if he became familiar with a particular municipality called the region of Durham.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: First of all, let me take this opportunity to congratulate my honourable friend the member for Durham East on achieving his re-election. Since I am here, may I say to you, Mr. Speaker, congratulations, and may I commend you on the very dignified way you hold your responsibilities.

While I am at it, may I commend the dean of the House, the member for Brant-Haldimand (Mr. R. F. Nixon) for his outstanding re-election and the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) for his elevation and return to the House. May I congratulate the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. B. Rae) on his recent ascension and may I say to the absent member, the leader of the Conservative Party, what a fine job he is doing serving in an interim capacity.

To the member for Brampton North (Mr. McClelland), a new riding, may I congratulate him. He is a new member in this House and I think he has distinguished himself very well.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I remind the Premier that the throne speech debate will continue after routine proceedings. Do you have a response?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, help me. Was there a question? Help me out.

Mr. Cureatz: Do you know the regional municipality of Durham.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Do I know the regional municipality of Durham?

I can say without fear of contradiction, we now have, in most cases at least, the most outstanding representation from Durham that I have ever seen in this House. They stand and they make their voices felt. They have a great impact on public policy. It is a compliment to the judgement of the voters of Durham with one possible minor exception.

Mr. Cureatz: In that regard, since the Premier is so familiar with the regional municipality of Durham, he is, of course, familiar with those three excellent Liberal members who have been elected: the member for Durham-York (Mr. Ballinger), the member for Durham Centre (Mr. Furlong) and the member for Durham West (Mrs. Stoner). Since the Premier is familiar now with the regional municipality of Durham—it is probably the largest-growing municipality in Ontario, if not Canada—I am wondering why he has not seen fit to put one of these three newly elected Liberal members in the executive council, so the regional municipality of Durham could feel comfortable that one of the largest-growing areas in Ontario would have a fair and geographically represented say in terms of what takes place around the cabinet.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: May I say I detect a little tinge of envy in that question. Let me share my problem with the honourable member. When presented with three such outstanding individuals as my honourable friend has mentioned, it is like being presented with the choice among gold, frankincense and myrrh. Which is the best?

Unfortunately, there was not room for all three of them, but it is interesting to note, because they are such strong and powerful voices, these people have such an effective voice in government today that it does not matter what side of the House they sit on or from what position they express their views, they are forcefully heard. I believe the people of the great region of Durham are now saying they are at least three quarters extremely well represented.

Mr. Cureatz: The next cabinet shuffle—one of them?

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Yesterday my friend and new colleague the member for Sudbury East

(Miss Martel) asked me a question about prosecution as a result of what she described as a potentially fatal incident at one of the facilities of Inco.

As a very small bit of background, on July 4, 1986, two supervisors at that facility removed a protective structure prematurely. That was the incident my friend was talking about. She was right, of course. Prosecutions were being considered in that matter and the process of evidence-gathering was going on. In fact, files did go back and forth from Toronto to Sudbury on a number of occasions.

She was also right that the file ultimately was lost before a final determination as to whether there was sufficient evidence to lay a prosecution was taken. The gist of my friend's question was about what steps the ministry has taken as a result of that incident.

I should tell the member the branch has taken a number of steps. The first is that it has recently appointed a special investigation officer. One of the responsibilities of that investigation officer is to improve and streamline the prosecution procedures, particularly the tracking of cases through the system.

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I also want to say that the ministry appropriately reprimanded the individual who was responsible for having lost the file, and we have taken a number of steps to computerize the system so that those instances do not—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you.

Miss Martel: The minister has talked about a special investigations officer who has been appointed to streamline these cases. In this particular case, are there going to be charges laid against the company? Is there going to be a prosecution in this case even at this late date?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: The simple answer to that question is no.

HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION

Mr. Morin-Strom: My question is for the Minister of Transportation and Communications. Today the minister has indicated that the estimated cost of four-laning the Trans-Canada Highway through northern Ontario is approximately \$3 billion. The last budget committed additional funding of \$26 million for highway construction in the north. At that rate, under the minister's timetable, we are looking at over 100 years to complete the four-laning of the highway across northern Ontario.

The minister would know that the only connection between a major centre in northern Ontario and southern Ontario via four-lane divided highway is the highway which runs through the state of Michigan from Sault Ste. Marie to Detroit, and then our connection would come across the highways in southern Ontario.

What is the minister's timetable, and is he going to increase the funding so that we will see major highways connecting the major centres in northern Ontario with the rest of our country and with the centres in southern Ontario in this century, not next century?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: I thank my friend for the question. As I indicated earlier, we are looking at in excess of \$3 billion in 1987 dollars for any meaningful project on Highway 17, the Trans-Canada, and other pressures on Highway 11, also part of the Trans-Canada. There are a number of highways and roads pressures, not only into Michigan but also Highway 61 from Thunder Bay into Minnesota, and I can go on and on.

We have the dollars he refers to as extra funds, not the total fund that the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) allocated for roads and highways in the north; the member is aware of that.

We are continuing with our efforts with the federal government, and I would urge him to enlist the aid of his federal counterparts in northern Ontario to assist us in persuading the federal Minister of Transport to change his mind.

Mr. Morin-Strom: The minister refers to the fact that they are additional funds. Well, we need additional funds because the base budget is barely enough to keep the roads in the shape they are supposed to be in in the north, let alone to commit the funds we need additionally to get the kind of four-laning we want across our northern highways.

I will be enlisting our northern colleagues in the federal caucus, and in fact they appear to be the only ones who are in contact with the federal government on this issue. Certainly the minister himself has not been, as is evidenced by a letter from the Minister of Transport, Mr. Crosbie, to one of the NDP federal members, John Parry, MP for Kenora-Rainy River, in which the federal minister states:

"As no large-scale improvement program for the Trans-Canada Highway has been initiated by the provincial government, nor have any relevant official representations been received by the federal authorities, I cannot envisage any federal involvement in the project..."

Mr. Speaker: Order. Do you have a question?

Mr. Morin-Strom: Yes. My question to the minister is, why has he not been acting on behalf of this province to ensure that we do have a commitment from the federal government to assist us, and even if it will not assist us, why does he not put in a phased approach so that we get the improved highways we need across northern Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: I can assure the member that we are indeed doing what we can do in a number of areas, as I expressed in response to an earlier question.

I can assure every member of this Legislature that I indeed have approached and my ministry has approached the federal Department of Transport and spoken directly to the federal minister. Indeed, I raised that issue over a year ago at the Roads and Transportation Association of Canada here in Toronto.

I also want to say to my friend that, because I heard from him and his colleagues, I have taken it upon myself to share his concerns, and less than three weeks ago I personally drove nearly a full day from Sudbury to Sault Ste. Marie to see for myself the concerns he has raised in this House. I will do what I can to address them.

GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING

Mr. McLean: I have a question for the Minister of Tourism and Recreation. Can he explain to the House why Vickers and Benson, the same advertising firm that supplied the Liberal Party over the past two elections with its services, has suddenly captured an over 500 per cent increase in advertising business from the ministry by jumping from \$1.9 million in 1985-86 to \$9.9 million in 1986-87?

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: The member for Simcoe East should be aware of something that this government put into effect on September 30, 1985, when the government announced a new, open system for selecting advertising agencies for ministries, agencies, boards and commissions under the direction of the Advertising Review Board.

I should say to the member that the competition that awarded Vickers and Benson the advertising contract was conducted through the Advertising Review Board. I should also mention to the member that this new process ensured that the competition was both open and fair. Two hundred and fifty Canadian-owned companies were invited to submit their credentials for this contract. Of the 17 companies short-listed and four finalists, the selection process established

by the Advertising Review Board awarded the contract to Vickers and Benson.

Mr. McLean: Could the minister tell us in this Legislature who the four on the short list were?

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: I do not have that with me today, but I will get in contact with the member and give him the details he has asked for. I will say that the process is now very different and new and is very fair and equitable to all concerned.

TEMAGAMI DISTRICT RESOURCES

Mr. Wildman: In view of the unexplained absence of the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio), I would like to place a question to the Premier. He will know that on August 21, the Minister of Natural Resources responded to the controversy over competing demands by user groups in the area of Lady Evelyn-Smoothwater Provincial Park by stating that he was going to appoint a so-called working group to review resource-use issues in the area to suggest ways to resolve potential use conflicts.

How can the committee report to the minister by December 1, as he indicated it would, when he has not even appointed it as yet?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: With great difficulty.

Mr. Wildman: Obviously.

In view of the fact that in his August announcement the minister stated that he was going to allow the carrying on of forestry operations in the Gull Lake area, a statement which itself calls into question the sincerity of the government in appointing this committee as a way of resolving competing land use demands, how can the Premier justify the allocation by the ministry yesterday of another area for logging in the area proposed for a wilderness reserve even before the committee starts its work?

Will the government impose a moratorium on logging in the proposed wilderness area until the working group gets going with its report and completes its work?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I do not want to minimize or treat this issue lightly. I appreciate my honourable friend's question. Shall we say it is as difficult an issue of this particular type as I have faced since we have been in government in the last couple of years. My honourable friend, I am sure, as a northerner and as an environmentalist, both of which are not necessarily incompatible in any way, will recognize an enormous clash of values over this particular issue.

My honourable friend will be aware of the enormous pressure from a number of the communities there, in particular mills, and I am

referring to Milne and Goulard, which have immediate wood supply problems. At the same time, we are anxious to establish that whatever is done there is done respecting the environmental values in that particular area.

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I think we have proceeded in a thoughtful way that is going to try to reconcile these two very difficult questions. There are ongoing discussions, I say to my honourable friend, with respect to getting the best people to handle this situation in a fairminded way that in a sense respects both sides of this issue. He will be aware there is no suggestion of anybody's touching the park; the question is over the buffer zone. Someone just said, "That should be the buffer zone," and then other people said, "Well, that should be the buffer zone." It is not a question of logging in the park.

Mr. B. Rae: We know that.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Well, some people do not know that; the only reason I am saying it is that some people do not know that. So the question is, what should take place in the buffer zone, how big should it be, who should set it and what should the rules be? I do not have all those answers for my friend today, but I say to him that I think we will conduct that, hopefully in as fairminded a way as possible, and come back with a sensible resolution to this House as soon as possible.

RENT REGULATION

Mr. Harris: I have a question for the Treasurer. Our party has now established the appalling fact that there is currently a backlog of some 23,000 whole-building rent review applications in the Ministry of Housing, an estimated quarter of a million units now backlogged.

Yesterday the Treasurer tabled the public accounts of Ontario, showing a 76 per cent increase in expenditures for rent review operations. One obviously wonders how they could get into this backlog mess with such a dramatic increase in spending—and hiring, I might add, as we have heard—over one year.

Does the Treasurer think, and would the boys back at Earl's Shell think, that the public is receiving value for its money on its rent review operations?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I doubt that in the municipality of South Dumfries there is any building that qualifies under rent review. I will ask the boys on the weekend about that matter.

But I think the Minister of Housing (Ms. Hošek) has made it very clear indeed in her answers this week and last week, which were very well put to the House, that she has a commitment to see that this backlog is worked through effectively, and the money the honourable member referred to has been used to get competent staff and facilities so that the reviews the honourable member is concerned with and we are all concerned with can be dealt with as expeditiously as possible, with fairness and equity for all.

Mr. Harris: I would like first to refresh the Treasurer's memory. Rent review cost us \$7.8 million in 1985-86, \$13.8 million last year and this year estimates are \$25.3 million, a 220 per cent increase in cost over that two-year period. The only thing growing faster than these rent review budgets is perhaps the hiring of more staff and the backlog of the whole-building applications for review. These are the things that are increasing.

We have heard today again that the minister's answer is that she is going to hire 35 per cent more staff again. So the government hires staff on staff, it triples the budget and yet the backlog keeps growing and growing.

Before the Treasurer throws any more money away and doubles and triples the budget again, adding another 35 per cent of staff, would he not agree it is time for a full value-for-money audit on the Ministry of Housing's rent review program?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I think the honourable member will be aware that in the last two years since we took office we have fulfilled the commitment made in the election of 1985 and supported by almost all the members of the House, although some of the Conservatives did not know which way to vote on this. One of them in the front row is indicating that he did not vote for it.

You will recall, Mr. Speaker, that we extended rent review to all of these apartment buildings, all of them. At the same time, we have established a rent registry. All these are expensive but extremely important aspects to the improvement of the policy that was left to us in such disarray.

HOUSING ALLOCATIONS

Mr. Breagh: I have a question for the Minister of Housing concerning yesterday's tabling of public accounts documents that detailed \$51.8 million that were allocated to provide housing in Ontario; her ministry failed to

deliver on that. How does the minister explain to all those hundreds of community groups around Ontario who had their applications to provide affordable, decent housing in their community denied by her ministry that she wasted almost \$52 million worth of allocations she could not deliver? How does the minister explain that?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: The allocations process that we underwent in the past year has delivered a significant number of housing units, and let me read some of them for the member: in Kenora-Benedickson, 75 housing units opened in August 1987; in Thunder Bay-Picton, 50 housing units in September 1987; in Ottawa, 104 housing units in June 1987; in Stoney Creek, 60 housing units, fully occupied; in the town of Haldimand, 40 units in September 1987; in the township of Roxborough, 26 units opened in June 1987.

Mr. Breagh: I appreciate that the minister is a very good reader, but the question is, who screwed up? There were almost 10,000 units under certain plans that could have been provided to people in Ontario. More than \$50 million was allocated to provide decent, affordable housing for people across Ontario, and her ministry screwed it up. Who did it?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: One of the programs we had—

Mr. Laughren: Why are you pointing to Alvin?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: Is the member interested in seeing the member for Scarborough North (Mr. Curling)? He is right here.

The Ministry of Housing, under one of its programs called Renterprise, did not achieve the targets we had set for it, and that is one of the reasons we decided it was not moving quickly enough and we decided to reallocate the resources towards nonprofit and co-operative housing starts.

Mr. Harris: I do not know why the member for Scarborough North sits there and applauds these answers.

Mr. Speaker: The question is to which minister?

MINISTRY BUDGETS

Mr. Harris: I have a question for the Treasurer. I have before me this stinky-flowered document of 1987. On page 50 of this document there is a line item that says, "Expenditure Savings and Constraints," \$350 million; \$275 million will be pared out of operating budgets, \$75 million will be pared out of the capital budgets.

I guess we are a little past halfway through this fiscal year. I wonder if the Treasurer can tell us now which ministry programs the \$275 million operating is coming out of and which ministry capital program the \$75 million is coming out of.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I expect in Ontario Finances, the most recent issue of the publication to be tabled early next week, there will be some detail in that publication concerning that, but I can assure the honourable member that we have every expectation of achieving our goal, certainly from the capital budget as well as the operating budget, and that he need only ask the individual ministers how successful Management Board has been in reviewing this matter. I can assure the member that, by the end of the fiscal year, a report of the total amount and where it comes from will be made available to the House.

Mr. Harris: I can only assume from the nonanswer that the Treasurer has not got a clue or that he does not know. We knew there was a fair bit of sleight of hand in his budget when it was brought in. He allocated \$275 million more than he said there was going to be money for to the ministries. Is he is telling us now, more than six months through this fiscal year, that he has no idea? Or is what he is telling us that he is refusing to tell us? He knows, but it is not for us to know, it is not for the public of Ontario to know where the sleight of hand appeared back when he presented this budget. Is it that he does not know or that he refuses to tell us?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: The honourable member would recall that this procedure was adopted from the precedent set by Frank Miller, the former Treasurer and former Premier of Ontario. In fact, it is quite a useful budgeting procedure. I cannot list for him right now where the money is being extracted from the various ministries, because there will be a full report of those \$350 million in savings. I can assure him that it is going to be done without seriously impairing the ability of my colleagues to carry out their very important responsibilities.

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DENTAL CARE

Ms. Bryden: I have a question for the Minister without Portfolio responsible for senior citizens' affairs. The minister may not be aware that the Liberal Party and the Premier (Mr. Peterson) promised to bring in a dental care program for senior citizens during the 1985 election campaign, but nothing has been done to implement this promise during the past two and a half years in office. Since she undoubtedly does know that

the Premier repeated this promise in the 1987 campaign, can she tell me whether she has yet brought to cabinet a program and a timetable for implementation of this promise to our senior citizens, who have lost faith in the credibility of Liberal promises?

Hon. Mrs. Wilson: In the midst of an ageing population and a rapid increase in the cost of health care strategies and delivery, we must develop new strategies for healthy living. I might indicate that some of these health areas will include a multidisciplinary department of geriatrics at McMaster University in Hamilton. The office for senior citizens' affairs has been working in co-operation with the Ministry of Health in developing such initiatives. The additional funding to expand home support services as well will be another service that will continue to help seniors to stay in their homes.

There are five geriatric hospital services and plans. The Ministry of Health has issued the guidelines for them. We have the programs up and running in both Ottawa and Hamilton and three are set to go in London, Kingston and Toronto to address the health needs of seniors.

Mr. Speaker: That completes the allotted time for oral questions. I see the member for Markham (Mr. Cousens) on his feet.

NOTICE OF DISSATISFACTION

Mr. Cousens: Under section 30 of the standing orders, I give notice of dissatisfaction with the answers given by the Minister of Housing (Ms. Hošek).

PETITION

DIALYSIS UNIT

Mr. Pollock: I have a petition.

"To the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"That the government of Ontario provide the funding for a haemo-dialysis unit for one of the hospitals in Peterborough."

It is signed by 79 people from Peterborough county and surrounding area.

NOTICE OF DISSATISFACTION

Ms. Bryden: At this time, may I give notice that I am dissatisfied with the answer to my question to the Minister without Portfolio responsible for senior citizens' affairs. It appeared to have no teeth in it and I would like to have it debated.

Mr. Speaker: You will follow the usual routine and give it to us in writing as well.

MOTION

ADJOURNMENT OF HOUSE

Hon. Mr. Conway moved that when the House adjourns today it stand adjourned until 1:30 p.m. on Monday, November 16, 1987.

Motion agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

BARRISTERS AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Scott moved first reading of Bill 15, An Act to amend the Barristers Act.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Scott: The purpose of this bill, which is reintroduced this session, is to deal with the appointment of Queen's Counsel.

CLEAN WATER ACT

Mrs. Marland moved first reading of Bill 16, An Act to encourage the Rehabilitation of Water Delivery Systems in Ontario.

Motion agreed to.

Mrs. Marland: The purpose of the bill is to ensure a clean water supply by promoting and assisting in the rehabilitation of water delivery systems. The bill would require the government of Ontario to investigate the question of the need for rehabilitation of water delivery systems used in municipal water systems throughout the province, considering the desirability of having a clean water supply, as well as environmental and health concerns, to assist municipalities in determining how most efficiently to effect appropriate rehabilitation of those water delivery systems, to assist municipalities in determining the cost of that rehabilitation and, finally, to consider giving municipalities the financial assistance necessary to carry out that rehabilitation and assist them in finding further assistance.

PLANNING AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. R. F. Johnston moved first reading of Bill 17, An Act to amend the Planning Act, 1983.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: This is the third time I have introduced this bill. An Act to amend the Planning Act would make it illegal for municipalities in Ontario to have constructed any manufacturing concern which might involve itself with nuclear weapons or their component parts. I am hoping this will be something that can

be dealt with when the Planning Act itself is brought forward by the government this year.

I would bring to your attention, Mr. Speaker, that Friday will be the anniversary of the passage in this House of the resolution to make Ontario a nuclear-weapons-free zone.

NUCLEAR WEAPONS ECONOMIC CONVERSION ACT

Mr. R. F. Johnston moved first reading of Bill 18, An Act to provide for the Conversion of Technologies and Skills used in the Nuclear Weapons Industry to Civilian Uses.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: This bill does not end present contracts that exist, but rather states that any company which has a contract to make nuclear weapons or their component parts must develop a plan with its workers and with the community to change its processes at the end of that defence contract so that it will provide jobs for those people of a civilian nature and not of a military nature; and where that is impossible, that a fund be developed to provide for the needs of those workers who may suffer layoff.

CITY OF WINDSOR ACT

Mr. M. C. Ray moved first reading of Bill Pr69, An Act respecting the City of Windsor.

Motion agreed to.

CITY OF TORONTO ACT

Mr. Offer moved first reading of Bill Pr8, An Act respecting the City of Toronto.

Motion agreed to.

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ORDERS OF THE DAY

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

(continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion for an address in reply to the speech of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

Mr. B. Rae: I am delighted to be able to participate in this debate; it is the first speech I have had the opportunity to deliver as the leader of Her Majesty's loyal opposition in Ontario.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: How do you like the big office?

Mr. B. Rae: I like the big office—I am going to talk about that in a moment—but I very much appreciate this opportunity.

I do not do this in a formal way, but let me start by congratulating the mover and seconder of the motion I will be amending at the end of my speech, I want to congratulate them and welcome them to the House.

I also want to make a point—and I have tried to see as many people personally as I can since the beginning of the session to welcome all the new members on all sides of the House—of saying it is quite a remarkable and lovely development to have been here for a short five years and now to be in a position of welcoming so many new people. When I came in here in a by-election, I was greeted with open arms by some very kind and generous people—

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Unfortunately, none in your own party.

Mr. B. Rae: No, actually they were much nicer than some other people I can think of.

I do want to just remind members on all sides of one of the features of a Legislature, as I often compare it to a ship or a cruise ship or something; we are all together on this voyage whether we like it or not. Here we are in this chamber where we have to learn how to live with each other and how to get along, and it has always been my belief that whatever differences we may have—and they will be expressed by many, certainly by me on many occasions—they are not intended, nor I hope taken, personally.

One of the things I have always enjoyed about politics in this country in my brief political career is that it is a profession which one can practise with a degree of a sense of integrity and in which one can have real differences with people and express them and yet also have respect for other positions.

While I am being such a nice guy, let me also congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on your re-election, which I had the pleasure and honour of seconding, and say how much I am looking forward to your leadership of the House. If I may say so, sir, we look forward to your leadership in the administration of Queen's Park itself, and that is a development I hope I may be able to touch on at some point in my remarks.

Finally, I know the member for Sarnia (Mr. Brandt) is not here, and he sent me a very kind letter indicating that he would not be able to be here for my remarks this afternoon. I just say to him that I wish him well in his role as leader of the third party. It is a job I know a little bit about and I want to wish him all the very best in his career. I have no idea what plans his party has for future conventions, but I know all members of the House will regard the member for Sarnia not

only with respect but also with a lot of affection. He is somebody we certainly wish well in his role as leader of the third party.

Let me say that I think what we were expecting, or at least hoping for, in this first speech from the throne after the election of September 10 was an approach to politics and to government in this province which took a big view, which looked at the big picture, which gave the people of the province a chance to reflect on all that had taken place, which in a sense made an assessment of where we were at, an assessment of our strengths and weaknesses as an economy and as a society, and which indicated very clearly and categorically the intention of the government of Ontario to lead, to provide a sense of place, a sense of including people, a sense of bringing people together in a province that is now nine million people strong and which is a province of such enormous contrasts and great potential.

That was not the kind of speech we got. Because it is not the kind of speech we got, I do intend to spend some time this afternoon outlining how we see our role; how perhaps, if I could put it personally, I see my role as Leader of the Opposition in this four-year period or three-year period, whatever it may be, until the next election. I also indicate that I do not see this as a job that is purely negative.

I think it is fair to say that leaders of the opposition have often been expected to spend, and have spent, considerable time simply opposing the government of the day because that was what the job description required. I think it is fair to say that it is necessary in a political system such as ours for members of the opposition to do that, to ask the questions and to attempt to probe as best we can the acts and intentions of government, to expose in whatever way we can the inadequacies of government action and to continue to reflect as best we can the wishes of our constituents, who voted for us just as the constituents of members opposite voted for them.

But let me also say that because of the kind of party the New Democratic Party is, because of the traditions we maintain and which I have an obligation as its leader to maintain, it is not my intention to oppose simply for the sake of opposition. It is our intention to try to do something which, if I may suggest, is probably a little more difficult; that is, to break the climate of complacency which now so clearly surrounds and envelops this government.

Something happens to a government and to a political party when it receives the kind of majority the Liberal Party received on September 10. We can all have our private reasons for the kind of majority that took place. No doubt each individual member believes that he or she is here because of his or her particular genius and ability. That is a fantasy to which we are all individually entitled and which no doubt reflects the egos that drive many of us into public life.

Whatever the reasons for the majority, here we are. It is ironic that a majority of people voted against the Liberal Party in the last election, and yet we have a government with virtually a three-to-one majority over the combined forces of the opposition. With that has occurred not a transformation of the Liberal Party, because it is not an animal that requires that kind of conversion, but I think it is fair to say a clear falling into the miasma of complacency which I felt I was walking into when I was first elected here on November 4, 1982.

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I am, I might add, celebrating my fifth anniversary as a member of this House this month. It feels like only yesterday, as I am sure the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) will agree. One of the things that struck me, entering this place at that time, was the extraordinary sense that had seized hold of the government that it was there by some kind of divine right to rule, that the questions were to be asked and answered and one was to be patted on the head and told: "There, there, run along. Many others have come before you and many will come after you and there is nothing you can say which will change our mind on this or that question."

If I may say so, what seems to me a very real danger in the political culture of this province is that that complacency is the tradition which the party in power today is very much—I would not say in danger of because I think we are already seeing it take place before our very eyes day by day. That complacency is something which I believe has to be fought against and has to be exposed.

It is a complacency where the Premier (Mr. Peterson) chats with Martin Goldfarb on the phone and Martin Goldfarb says: "Don't worry. The public doesn't realize that you are breaking your word and you can carry on doing what you are doing. Don't worry on free trade. You have given the public the impression that you are doing something, so carry on giving them that impression," even if that impression is delivered at the price of truth itself and at the price of reality

itself. It is a complacency which says it is more important for a government to deliver the impression that it is doing something rather than for the government to actually be doing it. It is more important for a government to be seen to be saying something rather than doing something.

I know it sounds a little grandiose and probably a little absurd to some, but I must say I do see it as our role, and my role as leader of our party, in this assembly and outside, to try to break some of that complacency. It is a complacency which, if I may say so, is reflected in our economic life at the moment, is reflected very much in the extraordinary contrasts, the divisions in our society, the differences which are differences in kind so enormous, such enormous differences. Yet for a large number of people in this Legislature everything seems to be going along just hunky-dory. There is nothing to be concerned about; everything is in hand.

It is one of the ironies of our time that at the same time as Jaguar sales are higher in this province than they have ever been—I am sure all members would agree that as you drive around this city, you just have never seen so many Jaguars. It used to be considered a complete luxury car. Now there are a lot of them around, and they all have licence plates with EZG or whatever, sort of a funny name, FAT CAT or whatever name the person wants to have on it.

At the same time as we see that reality, we have this incredible fact which we continue to bring up and people continue to write about in our newspapers and the wives of the Blue Jays team hold special bazaars to see who can bring in the most cans of food. We have the largest number of food banks in our history in Toronto today and right across the province. We have more people who are applying for free food than ever before.

We have more homeless people today than we had in 1982, more homeless people today than we had right in the middle of the most serious recession, only five years ago, since the 1930s. We have people in northern Ontario who continue to live not in the streets but in campers and in Winnebagos. We have people in Toronto who are living in bus shelters and are forced to leave when it gets too cold. We have people living in Barrie who are living in tents. This in a province which by any stretch of the imagination can only be described as one of the most affluent, one of the richest places in the world.

What disturbs me, and I think what has to be said, is that we are not, in our party, prepared to live in a province which is that way; affluent, well-off, comfortable for so many and a place of

real hardship for not just a few hundred but, indeed, thousands of our citizens. If I could say there is one reason for the existence of the New Democratic Party, one reason for its foundation, that central reason is this: to fight on behalf of working people in this province, of ordinary people in this province and to fight to change and to break a climate of complacency which keeps those people out of their place in this province. That is the central task of our party.

It seems to me that could be and should be the central task of a government. Would it not be refreshing to have a government that would say: "Look, Ontario, there is no reason to be complacent about where we are and where we are at." Let us not forget that a short five years ago, we had unemployment rates of 12 per cent, 15 per cent and 20 per cent. Let us not forget that our prosperity is based very much on a narrow ledge, that our prosperity is based right now on our access to markets in the United States and it is based on a boom in the North American economy which has, to many of us, seemed like so much a paper boom, so much a casino boom and, as everybody is beginning to understand this month, that kind of a casino boom can change into a casino bust very quickly indeed.

Throughout the last election campaign and indeed well before that, we made a point in our party of telling the story of individuals because for so many people listening to what politicians do, it seems like a question of abstractions. We talk housing statistics back and forth. We throw numbers back and forth. The member for Oshawa (Mr. Breough) today produced a number which I thought was a very telling number: \$52 million which the government had agreed to spend, had agreed to invest in housing; \$52 million which was not spent on housing; 10,000 places to live which were not built because the government could not get its act together to spend the money which it had agreed to spend.

I would like to ask each and every member in this House to think for a moment of the hours that we spend in our constituency offices and to think for a moment of the families and faces and histories and real people and real stories and real situations that we encounter every day with respect to housing. Every time members think of the figure which my colleague the member for Oshawa brought up this afternoon, they should stare into the eyes of a family that is living in a basement with children who are two, three and four years old, who are sleeping next to hot water heaters and reflect on the fact that the govern-

ment of the day could not get its act together to spend that money.

It is not a question of abstractions. It is not a question of blue books and question period and the jousting that goes back and forth in this place. It is, frankly, staring into the eyes of those children and of those parents and admitting that the government screwed up, to use the vernacular that was used so effectively this afternoon by my colleague from Oshawa. That is what politics is all about.

I might remind members that money was not spent at a time when we faced, by general recognition, the most serious housing crisis in this province. I simply say to the government, it may have the troops, it may have the members to defeat any argument that comes from this side of the House, but it is our job, no matter how many or how few of us there are in the House on any given occasion, to remind the government of certain uncomfortable facts, which should make it uncomfortable because they should make all of us uncomfortable and which should do something to break the complacency which threatens to envelop this government.

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It is all very well to have the answers in the briefing books, which say, "Here are a few housing developments which have taken place." But how much harder it is to go back into one's riding and to the next family that comes in and says: "We are number 522 on the housing waiting list that has 18,000 names on it. What do we do?" to say, "It was our fault, we screwed up." That is a fact which is undeniable.

One of the things I am committed to continue to do, because I believe it is right—I do not know if it is effective or how well it works or whether it convinces people, but I do believe it is right—one of the ways one should conduct politics in this place and in this province is to let ordinary people tell their story. It is to force government and to force majorities to listen, not to the Leader of the Opposition or the member for York South or to any one of the individuals here, but to the voice of people who have no other voice when it comes to getting access to power; to listen to the voice, as I asked the province to do in the election campaign, of someone like Jean Larcher, whose husband and so many members of her family died working underground.

She is like so many widows of hardrock miners today, who are still not compensated for the deaths their husbands suffered; their cancers are still unrecognized by a Workers' Compensation Board that 10 years ago refused to recognize

them, that 20 years ago refused to recognize them and that today, even with this so-called new government, is still failing to recognize their claim.

There is no answer to that, except to say, as the argument goes: "Well, that is the way the bureaucracy works. That is the way the system has always worked. That is the way it has always been and that is the way it will always be." I suggest to the government that it has to listen to those voices. I suggest to everyone in this House that they have to listen to those voices. They have to respond; they have to answer. It is to those voices that, ultimately, they are responsible.

I talked earlier about homelessness and housing and how people should listen and think, not of a general problem, not of a statistical quagmire where you say, "The number of spaces needed is this many and the number of people looking for them is this many and this number over here is far greater than the number available," but to think more in real terms of what that does to people.

I have also asked, when we think of health and safety problems, when we think of environmental problems, when we think of insurance problems, which I will be touching on in a minute, that we think of the families who are affected, that we think of the people who are affected and that we use this place as a forum which, when people watch it, they can understand the politics we are practising and talking about. It is not some event that is taking place at a level of abstraction which means nothing or does not relate to people's lives or where they are at.

It is a province of contrasts. It is a province where some people are doing very well, where the articulate and well heeled and well connected are always going to do very well, and it is a province where there are very profound, real, structural reasons it is difficult for ordinary people to get a fair shake. It is not an accident; it is very real.

The Ontario we know is also a province where insecurity can come at almost any time; where injury and accident can occur at any time; where lives that seem settled and well taken care of and well planned can suddenly be transformed and devastated by an accident, where our society still does not compensate and provide for people who are affected by those accidents.

We do not, for example, provide any kind of real compensation for people who are affected by an accident at home. We have one system of care for people who are injured at work. We have another system for people who are injured in an automobile accident. We have another complete-

ly different system for people who are injured at home. For those who are disabled from birth, we have a system of welfare that covers the vast majority of cases other than those very few families that have some civil suit to launch against an individual doctor.

If you do not have the money or the wherewithal to sue a doctor, or a doctor was not involved in what took place or you cannot sue the drug company, what have you got? You have got a government welfare program which, whatever announcement the minister may make in this pre-Christmas period, is a system that still is designed to keep people poor. That is what it is there for and that is what it does.

For all the success that has heralded the political life of the Liberal Party in this last while, I do want to suggest to the government that there is another side to the story of what could be done and what needs to be done. There are opportunities to invest, to plan, to help and to provide justice where there is none, a chance for government to do things that need to be done and that are simply not being done.

In the face of this, what did we get in the throne speech? As I said, we got words that sounded as if something was being done, but which when you actually look at them, ended up producing less even than the government was prepared to do in the period we now know as the accord.

I want to talk about those priorities the government has set out because I think we do have to respond to them. Then I want to talk about what we think the general priorities for the province should be.

There was a great deal of talk about education, about literacy, about housing and about health and health promotion and the prevention of illness. Finally, there were some words about technological change and about the role of the so-called Premier's Council. I want to deal with each of those areas and then move on.

The former Minister of Education, the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway) is here. He is now the government House leader. In a complacent majority in which the Premier is not able to extend either the courtesy of being here or the courtesy of explaining to the Leader of the Opposition why that normal courtesy would not be extended, I appreciate the presence of the government House leader.

I want to say to him that it is all very well for the government to talk about establishing new provincial benchmarks for literacy, languages, mathematics, sciences and social studies, to talk about more testing for students and to talk about

more detailed information on the children's progress. It is all very well to talk about how the government intends to provide a computer for every child, access to a computer for every child and smaller class sizes for kids who are in school from kindergarten to grade six.

But there is still a kind of technocratic flavour to this government's approach to the education question. There is still an almost naïve belief that if we hook up enough kids to computers, that in itself is going to be the measure of educational progress, and that as long as the government can measure who is doing well and who is doing badly, at least the system will be a little more accountable than the sort of very loose, flacid approach we all associate with the Bill Davis years in terms of educational reform.

There is no question that our children are not getting the kind of opportunity and chance in our education system today that we think they should get. The class sizes are too large and there is a need for greater accountability in our education system; I think that is fair to say. But the government is almost obsessed with the process and not with the result.

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Let me put it another way. If the same number of kids are dropping out as a result of all the testing that is taking place in Ontario, and if we find after doing all the testing that there are still the same ranges of equality and inequality that we can only expect to find, does the government not have an obligation to those kids who are dropping out when they are in high school and who are not doing as well when they are in elementary school to try to do something for those children and to say, "That is the kind of program we are going to introduce in the province"?

Am I the only one in this House who thinks it is more important that kids go to school well clothed and well fed than that they have access to a computer when they get there? I believe very strongly that we can do as much for the educational environment of those children by ensuring that they are well housed, well clothed and well fed and provided for than by tinkering, if I may say so, with the latest machinery that is available. I really do believe that.

I think that is a point that has to be made time and again, because for all the technocratic tinkering of this government when it comes to education, I can assure the minister and the Premier that the results of whatever testing they do in five years will reflect the reality of this province that kids who are poor are not going to

do as well in that testing, that kids who are hungry are not going to do as well in that testing, that kids who do not know whether their father and mother are going to be together and have a house are not going to do as well in that testing. Those are the same kids who in 10 years' time are going to be dropping out of school.

You do not have to be a genius to understand or to know that. You simply have to walk down the street in any one of our communities, walk into homes and walk into a school and know why kids are underperforming. Talk to the teachers in our school system today and the best and most sensitive will say, "I can predict what is going to happen, depending on what Mary or Johnny is feeling at home, how secure they feel and what kind of future they are going to be facing."

We still have hundreds of thousands of kids who are living in poverty in this province today. To pretend that we can deal with the educational problems of this society without dealing with the problem of children in poverty is a nonsense and should be exposed as a nonsense in Ontario. Yet this is a government that would have us believe there is a mechanical solution to this thing, that there is an electronic solution, that the difficulty with our education system is that there are not enough computers.

Mr. Speaker, I would love to see the most up-to-date computer equipment made available to our children. Do not let anyone misunderstand or misconstrue what I am saying. But what I am saying is that once the government has done that, it has not gone very far; it has not changed some of the problems we face that we know we face.

There is a debate that has gone on for literally decades among social thinkers, educational theorists and everybody else as to why there is so much inequality, why there is a class structure in education that reflects the class structure of a society. Those who think you can change that or provide more equality of opportunity simply by tinkering with the educational mechanics are making a profound mistake.

The reality is that we will improve our educational performance, we will improve our literacy, we will improve the ability of our kids to perform as we want them to and to have the chances we want them to have only if we deal with this nagging, persistent question of inequality and poverty. Unless we deal with that question and that problem, we will continue to see the kind of inequality that the government has failed to address.

There was an interesting contrast. When the Premier made his first speech in this House as

Premier setting out what he was going to do, he did not talk about the accord but about all the items that were listed in it. One of the areas he mentioned, interestingly enough, was the question of streaming. I wonder if members remember that. He talked very specifically about streaming and how he was going to be doing something about streaming. Do you know something? I have never heard him talk about it since. I have never heard the government talk about it since. I have never heard the Minister of Education (Mr. Ward) discuss it since.

Mr. Laughren: Not in this House.

Mr. B. Rae: Not in this House. Not as a matter of priority. Not as something the government is going to address. What was addressed in the last election because it was an election in which the Premier wanted to present himself as the yuppie answer to the world. It was the question of technocracy. Technology is going to answer the problem; not the questions, they are more difficult. They demand not simply saying: "Here, you've got a problem. Let me buy you something." That is not the answer. The answer is to recognize that there are some profound social problems, which are related as much to our educational system as anything else and more responsible for it than anything.

Similarly, with respect to the question of literacy, I can say I am delighted that the words about literacy are contained in the throne speech. The only thing that makes me sad is that there are not the resources to make it happen. I may be old-fashioned, but I happen to think that basic literacy and numeracy skills are the mission, if I may use a word which is not unknown to the former Minister of Education, of our education system in this province. And yet for some time it was handed over as a kind of frill to the Minister of Culture and Communications (Ms. Munro). Now it has been given to the Minister of Skills Development (Mr. Curling). All those literacy folks just finished getting unpacked in the Ministry of Culture and Communications and now they are sent over to another minister who has some interest in this question of literacy.

I want to say to the Premier that I think the question of literacy is one that should be at the foundation, at the heart, of our whole approach to education. It is one that should inform our entire approach to education.

Housing: the Speaker will be glad to know, from reading the words of the throne speech on page 8, that "Many Ontarians do not have access to affordable quality housing." That is an understatement. We are in the middle of a

housing crisis and it is a housing crisis that affects all levels of society.

There was a time when one would see the housing crisis as something affecting the homeless. Four or five years ago there were homeless people, people who were living on the very margins of our society, people with severe psychiatric problems, people with severe drug and alcohol abuse problems. There have always been shelters and places of refuge for those people. One could talk in those years of a housing crisis as it related to them, and one would have been right.

But today we have a housing crisis which affects all levels of society. It continues to affect those whom we have classically treated as homeless people, street people of one kind or another, but it affects all levels of society. It affects the younger couple who are working and who cannot afford to buy a home. It affects younger people who are working and who cannot find a place to rent. It affects people who are living well beyond their means in rental or housing accommodation and who are desperate for affordable public housing and cannot find it. It affects our older people who may not qualify for one reason or another for seniors' accommodation and who cannot find a place to live. I think it is fair to say that it affects all levels of our society.

It is not a surprise. It is something all of us saw coming, but I think it is also fair to say that it is a development that has hardly been greeted by actions worthy of the name from the government of Ontario.

The Minister of Housing (Ms. Hošek), who has been newly appointed—and it is always a pleasure to welcome new ministers and new members. I must confess, and I do not want to be unfair, that I always feel like a somewhat backward member of a first-year university class when I listen to the Minister of Housing. There is a kind of a sense: "Did you not hear me the first time? Here are all the programs. I will write them down. There is convert-to-rent and there is this, that and the other and here they all are. I will list them all. Now recite them back to me."

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That is not what we are here for. We are here for an explanation of why money was not spent, why people are still being overcharged for their rent and cannot get access to the rent review panel. We want to know when houses are going up. We want to know who is going to be able to move into them. That is what we want and that is what we expect as members of the Legislature,

all of whom have to face our constituents and explain to them why there is not a place for them to live in Ontario. That is what we expect from our government and that is what we are not getting, from this minister or from any other minister.

There are two other areas which I wanted to touch on very briefly, questions of health promotion and illness prevention and the questions of technology and technological innovation and the role of the Premier's Council. In both areas it is very hard to disagree with what the government says, but it is very difficult to see any connection between that and what the government does. What you do in this business is ultimately more important than what you say.

With respect to the question of health, our party has been talking for two decades about the challenges in the health care system once we had moved to medicare. Once we had moved to a good system of health insurance, we then said, and the member for Parkdale at that time—what a contrast to the current member for Parkdale (Mr. Ruprecht), but I will leave that for another day—I invite the new members to go back to the speeches of the member for Parkdale, Dr. Duksza. I am quite serious. Go back and read Janos Duksza's speeches when he was the Health critic in the early 1970s and have a look at what he was saying about the promotion of health, about what is happening to the street people, about mental illness, about the creation of an illness system in Ontario instead of a health system. All the things we were attacked for saying at that time the government is now saying, but none of the institutional changes that have to match that are being made.

I want to say that you cannot maintain the current bureaucratic structure with respect to health care in this province and expect to change the system. You have to break up that bureaucratic structure if you are going to be able to do that. I want to come back to that point because I think it is important.

I just say to the government that it is all very well to talk about the promotion of health and the prevention of illness and to talk about the realities of an ageing society and what needs to be done, but you have to make and be prepared to make the institutional changes which will do that. If I may be blunt, to expect the current Ministry of Health to act as the vehicle which will change our health care system in this province is impossible, because I would suggest that the structure of the Ministry of Health is part of the problem, not part of the answer.

Finally, we have the Premier's affection for the Premier's Council, which is his personal baby and which he is now going to couple with the health council, which he also is going to be producing. I want to suggest that both of these endeavours are no doubt interesting seminars for the Premier and an important opportunity for him to listen and learn, one which I think all members would enjoy: sitting around with a number of very well informed people talking about what needs to be done and what can be done.

But I say very respectfully to the Premier that what is at stake now is more than simply an exercise in trying to develop the knowledge base of the Premier of Ontario. As interesting and long-term an exercise as that no doubt is, it is not, it seems to me, the function of government.

What we need is structures in place today that will ensure that, when government plans, that planning is integrated into what it does, and you do not have planning institutions—and I am going to come back to this because we have had experience with this in this structure for a number of years. We have had secretariats—not the horse, the actual structures. We had Robert Welch and other people who were responsible for the secretariats for various areas, none of which was integrated into the work of government. We have had the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development program, which was sort of out there as part of the Premier's baby, separate from the work of major departments in the government.

We have also had, I may say, a Liberal government which has had two years now to have a look at the structure that was bequeathed to it by the Tories, which has had two years to deal with the bureaucratic structure of the government ministries and the way in which government is organized that evolved over the 42 years of Tory administration.

What is fascinating to me as a student of government, as a student of the way in which governments operate as well as the way in which politics operate, is that that foundation has not been changed at all. It has not been changed at all. The basic structure of government, the basic structure of programs, the basic way in which departments are organized has not been changed by the Peterson government.

What I say is this: What we needed in this speech from the throne was a clear indication that they, having governed for two years, were ready and eager for a new mandate to really carry on the change which they felt elected to carry on.

Instead, what they produced in the throne speech was the clear statement to the province: "It's all right, Ontario. We had two years when things started to happen. Don't worry, you can calm down now. Nothing is going to change again; life will go back to just the way it was. Some of the players have been changed, and the faces may be different, but the basic structures are going to remain the same and the policies will remain the same; there is nothing to worry about."

So what was to be a mandate for change became in fact the largest collective dose of Valium ever inflicted on a population in the history of Canada. That is what we have seen, and that is what was represented in the throne speech.

That is why, as I recounted the other day, when I was at the airport and a fellow came up from the Ministry of Labour and said to me, "Mr. Rae, I just wanted to shake your hand and say hello to you," I asked, "What is your name?" He gave me his name and he said, "I work in the Ministry of Labour." I said, "That's a ministry I have worked with over the years," and he said, "I know you have." I said, "What are you doing?" He said, "I am going on holiday for a few days, because once the accord was over we all knew we could all slow down and there was no need for us to worry as much as we had to work and worry during the life of the accord."

I am sure that message has gone right through the bureaucracy: "Don't worry, the process is being slowed down." The message has gone out to the chambers of commerce and to the manufacturers' association and to the insurance groups and to all the powers that be in the province: "There might have been a bit of a scare there for a couple of years, things might have been shaken up a while. Not to worry: It's under control again and there's nothing to worry about, because nothing is going to happen."

That is the message we are getting from the speech from the throne—very, very clearly. I think that is the message which we have to respond to and have to respond to with a sense of what needs to be done and what can be done.

I want to spend the rest of my remarks in looking at some areas that have simply not been addressed by this government, some areas that need to be looked at, and to talk as well about how these would be done.

It is one of the interesting accusations that is made about the New Democratic Party that, "Oh well, you've got all sorts of ideas, but you don't know how they will happen." I want to say that,

having watched this government in action, if I may use that word in its broadest sense, for the last while, and having watched the Tories over a number of years, I have developed some quite strong views as to how the government could shake things up and how things could be delivered differently in terms of the bureaucracy. That is something it seems to me also needs to be done, as well as the programs I have talked about.

Hon. Mr. Elston: What are you planning to do for the New Democratic Party? You have had some suggestions there.

Mr. B. Rae: The Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Mr. Elston) who has reverted to the anonymity which he—

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Mrs. Grier: Which he so richly deserves.

Mr. B. Rae: Well, certainly which comes as no particular surprise to us.

Interjection.

Mr. B. Rae: If I can carry on, Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about pension reforms; I want to talk about the insurance system; I want to talk about the north; I want to talk about our response to education; I want to talk about hydro; I want to talk about universal sickness and accident insurance, and I want to talk about how we would in fact begin to deal with the problems in health care, health promotion, occupational health and safety as well as environmental health and safety.

I want to suggest that one of the features of the last recession which was truly remarkable was that the government of the day went through a period of extraordinary social and economic change without introducing any major changes into what I call our social security system, our pension system. What we had was a shutting down of any sense of reform with respect to any measures dealing with income security, any measures dealing with pensions, any measures dealing with the need to help people through a period of extraordinary change.

I want to suggest that whatever may happen with respect to this debate on the trade agreement between Canada and the United States, that change continues to be a feature of our society that will not go away and that requires a response.

I want to suggest that it is not good enough for the Treasurer to say that the so-called crisis in the stock market is now one which gives second thoughts to the government's plans to index private pensions. I also want to say that I think it is reprehensible that this government has not

indicated any plans to deal with the question of the age of retirement and the rights of people to retire before the age of 65.

I find it ironic that we in this House, many of whom have just undergone a rather dramatic case of early retirement, in some cases extremely involuntary, are blessed with a pension system that is a good one and yet we, as the Legislature in Ontario, preside over a pension system which is grossly and brutally unfair for most of our workers.

In my political life and as a constituency member I have met literally hundreds of people in my office who have no private pension, who have no access to a private pension, who have never had a private pension and who are in their mid-50s, late 50s, early 60s, facing incredible odds, unable to get a job, unable to get access to training and unable to find any indication from government that it is there to help.

That is why I say that it seems to me the very least this government could do would be to indicate to the older workers of this province that it recognizes their special problem. You look at what is happening to management structures throughout this province and you are going to find management structure after management structure that has a deal for people, a golden handshake for people in their 50s, a golden handshake for senior executives, a golden handshake for people who are being forced out because of so-called downsizing and restructuring in our industry.

With this increased change in our society, as it affects every firm in this province, we can rest assured that the private contract signed between management and management is taking care of people in their 50s and early 60s. The people who are not being cared for, who are not being provided for, are the ordinary workers, many of whom have no union and have no basis for organization at all, and those are the people whom government should be stepping in and helping.

That is why I say we need to have a comprehensive reform of private pensions in this province which provides for a pension for everybody who is retiring, and that is something we do not have. What we have is a pension reform bill that went through in the last parliament which was the minimal list the previous Conservative government could get, in agreement with all the other Conservative governments at that time and agreed to by the federal government of the day.

We do not have a province like Ontario, which is supposed to be wealthy, taking a lead and saying, "We are going to move in this area of pensions and we are going to provide for early retirement for people who are affected by the climate of layoffs and change that is going right through our industry."

I mentioned earlier the incredible differences in our society between what happens to people when they are injured at work, what happens to people when they are injured in a car and what happens to people when they are injured at home. Again, here you have a government that has an opportunity to govern for at least three years, that has had an opportunity in the last two years to look at, understand and appreciate the anomalies in the workers' compensation system and that knows, because of the people it sees on its doorstep, just as we do because of the people we see on our doorstep who know what the problem is, that the system that exists in Ontario today does not make any sense.

Here we have a government that is still not prepared to even contemplate or mention the words "universal sickness and accident insurance," yet it is an idea whose time has obviously come. It is clearly an idea that will allow for the compensation and rehabilitation of people who right now are not being compensated adequately and are not being given the kind of rehabilitation, the kind of help they need. I think it is fair to say it is an idea that makes the same kind of sense as workers' compensation itself did when a revolutionary Conservative government brought it in in 1915.

It is worth remembering that workers' compensation is now 72 years old in Ontario and its structure has not been basically changed since that time. There have been add-ons. If you look through the statute, you will find there have been add-ons and minor changes. The odd disease is added to the schedule which lists the number of occupational diseases and there has been the odd shift in terms of the way the pension system is calculated, but let me tell the members this: The meat chart is just the same now as it was in 1915. The philosophy is just the same. There is the same minimalist philosophy with regard to what has to be done. The basic structure of the system has not been changed since that time.

We made quite a fuss in the last election campaign about car insurance and we were right. We were right when we said there was an opportunity to do something for drivers in this province, just as we did something for all the people of this province with health care in the

1960s. I believe as surely as I believe anything that the abuses we found in the car insurance system are abuses that can only really be dealt with, cured and made better by the simple, clear introduction of a driver-owned public plan that gives to drivers the benefits of a nonprofit system.

I find it curious that we have a government here that says to universities, "You can legitimately pool your risks and you can legitimately get rid of the insurance companies' profit motive and you can legitimately pool those risks and take care of it"; that says to local school boards and municipalities, "One of the ways for you to deal with the insurance crisis in Ontario today is to get together with all the other school boards and municipalities, pool your risks and get rid of the insurance companies." I talked to a trustee yesterday from Port Hope and he told me his board had saved \$65,000 in premiums in one year.

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Mr. Speaker, perhaps with your wisdom you can explain to me why it is that a Liberal government can say to universities, which are powerful institutions, "You can take care of yourselves and you don't have to deal with the insurance companies"; can say to the school boards, on which it has many friends, "You are right, you are being ripped off by the insurance companies, you don't have to pay what you are paying"; can say to the municipalities, in which it has many friends, "You are right, you are being ripped off, you ought to pool your resources and not have to pay money to the insurance business."

Mr. Speaker, perhaps you can answer this question: If it is good enough for the universities and it is good enough for the school boards and it is good enough for the municipalities, why in hell is it not good enough for the ordinary drivers in Ontario to have a nonprofit system that is owned and operated by them and not by the insurance companies?

We have not had an answer to that question and we will not get an answer to that question, because the Liberal Party has decided to take the insurance companies' side in this question of what to do about the drivers. They have not taken the insurance companies' side when it comes to the universities because they are big, powerful institutions too; they have not taken the insurance companies' side when it comes to the municipalities because they are very powerful public institutions; and they have not taken the side of the insurance companies when it comes to school

boards because they are very powerful institutions.

But when it comes to the ordinary driver whom the insurance companies in this province are milking and bilking each and every day of the week, whose side do they take? The side of the insurance companies. I think that is a disgrace and I think that is something that ought to be changed in the province. I think that is something we ought to be able to change.

But I also want to say, as I said earlier, that I do not regard it simply as a question of car insurance alone. I do think we have to deal with the question of car insurance, but I think we also have to deal, if I may say so, with this question of a universal sickness and accident plan. I think we have to look to those countries—social democratic New Zealand, for example—which initiated such a move a number of years ago, and ask ourselves the questions, as a province: Is that not a model that makes much more sense, in terms of rehabilitation and compensation and caring for people? Is that not a system that makes much more sense than what we are abandoning our people to today?

I say, in all bluntness, that there are people who are sick today, who cannot work, who either have no compensation at all or are undercompensated by as much as \$600, \$700 or \$800 a month. That is the kind of plan we are talking about for the benefit of the people of the province.

I talked earlier about the question of health promotion and illness prevention. I also talked about the question of an ageing society. I want to say that I do not believe it is possible for the current structure of the Ministry of Health to deal with these questions. I do not say that out of any particular disrespect for any particular ministry. I do not have a particular grudge against one minister or one ministry as opposed to another.

But let me just deal with the question of ageing. I saw the Minister without Portfolio responsible for senior citizens' affairs (Mrs. Wilson) yesterday and told her I was going to be talking about this. I am delighted she is here. We are all glad to see her appointed, just as we were glad to see her predecessor appointed and there for two years.

I want to suggest that when we look at this question of ageing and its relationship to health care, we are surely past the stage when we should have ministers without portfolio with very little line responsibilities in terms of the management of a ministry, when we have that structure in place where those ministers are there almost as an afterthought in the system, negotiating and

bargaining and dealing with all the other ministries without the kind of power and power base and line responsibilities we think they deserve and need to have.

Let me put it another way. If we are in fact in the middle of a crisis with respect to ageing and if we are serious about the challenges of an ageing society, why do we not give the minister responsible for senior citizens' affairs the responsibility for managing those aspects of the health care system which directly affect old people? Why do we not do that? We should have learned by now from the experience of the secretariats that we get too little back from the system itself to merit this kind of bureaucratic sideshow. Why do we have a system in Ontario where the Ministry of Community and Social Services has responsibility for homes for the aged, the Ministry of Health has responsibility for nursing homes, and two and a half years after the last election we still do not have the legislation in place which will provide for that administration together under one ministry? We still do not have it.

I want to suggest that whether you are dealing with home care, whether you are dealing with institutional care or whether you are dealing with the general needs of people who are older in our society, it seems to me to make such good sense to say to the ministries of Health and Community and Social Services, "Look, you've had a bureaucratic war going on in every constituency and every community, which every social worker has known about from time immemorial, and this government is finally going to deal with it and break it up and give the minister responsible for senior citizens some real responsibility."

I say to the minister, I am not attacking her. I am asking the leader of her party and of her government to give her the kind of responsibility and the kind of power in the system which we think people who are dealing with senior citizens deserve to have, and I say that also with respect to the disabled.

Is it not an insult to the disabled and to senior citizens to say that other people will get a real ministry that has a real line responsibility, that has a deputy minister and a structure there that is going to deliver programs and be responsible for programs, but the people who are responsible for the disabled and for senior citizens are there on the side, they do not have those portfolio responsibilities?

I think that is wrong. I do not think it makes any sense. I think it is critical if we are serious about doing something about our ageing society,

and critical if we are serious about doing something on behalf of people who are disabled, that we give the politicians who are responsible for arguing their case in this House and for administering programs in this House on their behalf the power to do what it is they say they are going to do. To me, it is nothing short of tokenism to say, "We're going to make these ministries training grounds for people."

I mean no disrespect to the new minister, but I have a sense of frustration when I know that the previous minister spent two and a half years learning the ropes, figuring out the programs, finding out what the bureaucratic wars were, finding out who was on whose side and what was going on, then suddenly he is gone into the nether world—which is understandable; we all know that is the way of politics—and a new minister comes along. Those of us who have been in this field for a time feel a certain sense of frustration, not on our own behalf but frankly because we are going to end up fighting the same battles in the same way and the same type over and over again, because this government is not prepared to take on the bureaucracy in Health and Community and Social Services which needs to be split up and broken up and divided up in a different way. That is what needs to be done.

I would like to mention at the same time the question of how we deal with health promotion and how we deal with occupational health and safety and how we go about enforcing the law with regard to environmental health. I happen to believe that if you are seriously going to have health promotion as an aspect of health care policy that is going to have a priority, you need a ministry that is going to give it that priority. You cannot give the ministry which is responsible for institutional care and responsible for administering institutional budgets the responsibility for public health as a kind of a sideshow.

Either you integrate public health into the middle of a ministry and give that ministry the responsibility for administering public health, health promotion, environmental health and occupational health and safety, and say, "There is a structure that makes sense that is going to put these issues as a priority," or you continue to see them as separate sideshows.

The proportion of money that we spend on public health in this province is minuscule in comparison with the amount of money that is spent on institutional care and on doctors' fees. It is minuscule. Well over 90 per cent of the budget of the Ministry of Health is spent on two things:

institutional care and the salaries of doctors, the fees we pay to professionals in the system.

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To suggest it is that ministry that is going to be responsible for health promotion is to misunderstand completely the realities of the bureaucratic world, a bureaucracy that for its entire existence has had as its real goal and responsibility the administration of institutions. We cannot all of a sudden, by virtue of one throne speech, be expected to say, "And now we are going to ask you to turn all your mandate on its head and take as your priority the question of promotion of public health." It will not happen. I guarantee that until this function of public health is split from the Ministry of Health and given a ministry of its own, it will not happen.

If on the other hand we have a ministry that is specifically responsible for the promotion of environmental health, occupational health and public health, then we will have a structure where a minister will have the power to move in and make these things happen. That is why I say that if they are going to announce a program, it is not enough to say, "We are going to have a health council over here and we are going to have a technological council over here, but the vast majority of the bureaucracy is going to remain entirely intact and the way it was before." I am not in the government but I am an observer of how these governments have worked, and unless it changes that structure, I guarantee it will not happen.

Finally, I want to deal with the question of the economy. I happen to believe that we have no doubt in the last five years, if you compare the state of the economy—I was looking through a number of throne speeches and responses to throne speeches in thinking about what I was going to be saying today, and yes, it is quite remarkable how there have been some constants in terms of what governments have said, but we have also benefited tremendously from an economy that is changing, from an economy with which in the last few years Ontario has done exceptionally well in comparison with other provinces.

Yet it is interesting to notice that the government's own priorities in terms of its investments and spending in the economy have not taken advantage of this prosperity we have seen. It is not just that, like the United States and like Canada itself, we have not been able to reduce the deficit even in a time of unprecedented economic growth. It is really quite remarkable in strict Keynesian terms that we have not been able

to do more to balance the budget in a real sense. That is not the only question. What is interesting is that private investment and public investment have not grown to the extent that private profit and public revenues have. What that means is that when we face the next down-cycle, we will not necessarily be any better placed to deal with it than we were in dealing with the last one.

Perhaps I can suggest to the members that we face a prosperity in southern Ontario that is almost exclusively the result of our public and private investments and job growth in services and in the automobile sector. If across the way they look at the numbers and statistics, they will see that has been the basis of this prosperity. The growth has not been diversified and intelligently planned. In a sense it has been almost accidental. We have been very lucky. This has been a very lucky government.

I think it is fair to say it is a government that has benefited enormously from growth in the economy for which I do not think it can be held responsible, because one can hardly point to policies that are dramatically different from anything practised by the previous government that would say it is because of this particular measure or that one that Ontario is in the good position it is in.

What is troubling about the structure we now have is that the prosperity we have built is simply not solid. We continue to underinvest in people. We continue to underinvest in training and skills and education. We continue to underinvest in the people of this province, who are the most important vehicles, if I can put it that way, the most important agents of what it is that makes this province tick and what it is that makes it grow.

At the same time as we have seen an extraordinary growth—even mentioned in the paper today—in the profits of a number of private companies, we do not see those same companies reinvesting to the same extent in research and development, in education, in skills training and in the future. We suffer the same kind of problem with respect to the development of investment today as we faced earlier.

I want to suggest that what we are looking at now is a prosperity which is no doubt beneficial to a great many people, which is not widely shared. We have not seen the structural changes in government programs which should produce a better sharing on behalf of people and a prosperity which I believe is directly threatened, first of all, by the free trade agreement which is being negotiated between Canada and the United

States, and threatened as well by potential changes in world economic conditions which may well develop over the next year.

I want to say this about free trade. I do not want to spend an entire afternoon on a subject on which we have already spent a considerable time debating in the House and on which my views are by now well known.

I do want to say this to the government. I do not care what Martin Goldfarb tells it. I do not care what advice it is getting from its pollsters on how well it is convincing the people of the province that it is still keeping the mandate. I know why, and all of us know why, a great many people in this province voted for the Liberal Party in the last election. They voted for the Liberal Party in the last election because they sincerely believed that the Premier of this province was personally committed to vetoing a free trade deal that was not in the best interests of Ontario. That is why they voted for him.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: That is the bottom line.

Mr. B. Rae: That is the bottom line. I say to the government this day that I do not care what Martin Goldfarb says, as time unfolds it is going to become clearer to the people of this province that the Premier has betrayed his word and the word of his party, and of his government with respect to an issue that is crucial to the future of this province, and that is the question of a trade agreement between Canada and the United States. He has broken his word as clearly as I have ever seen somebody break his word in my personal history in politics.

I say this quite sincerely. I have seen the Premier say that he would veto a deal. I have seen him say that if the auto pact was on the table he would veto the deal. I have heard him say to farmers that if they were on the table it was a deal that would not go through. I have seen him hold out to group after group in this province the commitment and the clear understanding that if the deal was not the one he wanted, expected and desired to have, that deal would not happen; the Premier would save the people of the province from the free trade agreement.

Now he gets up and says, "It is all very complicated and very complex." He says, "There is nothing I can do." He says, "The auto pact is a matter of federal jurisdiction." Does he honestly believe it was a matter of federal jurisdiction today but it was not a matter of federal jurisdiction a year ago, a year and a half ago or two years ago, when he got up and said, "I have a veto"?

We are looking at a government that has broken its word. That is not the first time it has happened in politics. Many cynical observers of the political scene would say, "That is what happens in politics."

Do not forget that the New Democratic Party went through another period in the election of 1974. Does the House remember Pierre Trudeau? I do not know whether he is now regarded as a millstone, or what his status is now in the provincial Liberal Party. Do the members remember Pierre Trudeau in Timmins, Ontario, in the election of 1974 where he talked about wage and price controls? He said, "Never." He made fun of Robert Stanfield and said: "What are they going to do with the prices of things? Are they going to say, 'Zap, they are frozen'?" He said, "The Liberal Party needs to be elected in order to fight the wage-and-price control plan of Robert Stanfield." One year later, Pierre Trudeau was introducing wage and price controls in Canada.

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What we are seeing is exactly the same movie, exactly the same pattern being repeated over and over again. We are seeing a government that was specifically elected by the people of this province because of a commitment on free trade, and we see a government that is not living up to that commitment on free trade.

I read with interest the comments of observers and others who say: "The Premier is playing it cagey, he is playing it cute and he is playing it very carefully. His pollsters are telling him that he is doing just fine." Let me say this: I think the Premier has blown it completely.

Let me say why. This is the same government that told us when we were sitting a few seats down, that said to the New Democratic Party: "Do not worry. This is not the time for us to be getting out of the free trade negotiations or for us to be trying to exercise our veto, before the negotiations." The Premier of the province said to me: "Do not worry, Bob. There will be lots of time to veto that decision and that agreement after it has been made. Do not be so premature. We have the matter well in hand. We know exactly how this thing is going to unfold and we have the approach that we think is the best for the people of Canada."

Time after time we said to the Premier, "Look, my friend, if you are opposed to free trade, the time to veto that agreement was before it even started. The time to be having a fight with Don Getty and Grant Devine, if that is what it takes, the time to be having a fight with Brian

Mulroney, if that is what it takes, was two and a half years ago when this thing was getting started." Once a deal is signed with the United States of America, can you imagine the bargaining that is going to take place with the American President, whoever he or she may be, and the American Congress a year, a year and a half and two years down the road?

It is all very well for people to say, "It can be signed and then we can decide in a year or two whether or not Canada is going to live up to the agreement." Do not think you can go back so easily. Do not think it is going to be that easy or painless to undo what the federal government is trying to do.

That is why I say the time to stop this deal is now, not in a year's time. The time to stop it was two years ago. Now is even time enough to get started on stopping it. That is why we are insisting that if Ontario has the power or capacity to do anything to stop this deal, now is the time for Ontario to be acting, not five years down the road when it is going to be too late. This is what the people of Ontario want and this is why they voted for the government on September 10. Now is the time to act on free trade. That is the point that has to be made.

This government was elected saying it would do something. This government was not elected saying that it would continue to speak. The Premier did not need a mandate in order to give a speech to the Canadian Club; the Premier did not need a mandate to do any of those things. The Premier said he needed a mandate in order to deal with the issues.

I want to suggest an alternative scenario. I want to ask members of this House to reflect for a moment on what this place would have been like if there had been no election. Some of the members would not be here, but apart from that I am asking them to reflect for a moment on what the position of the Premier of Ontario would have had to be in order to deal with this question of free trade in a minority House.

I want to suggest it would have been very clear. The Premier would have had to choose between two positions: the position of this party or the position of the third party. Either he would have had to seek the support of our party on a motion of confidence dealing with his position or he would have had to seek the support of the Conservative Party on his position. He would have had to make up his mind. He would have had to face up to the choice and he would then have had to decide how and when he was going to speak on behalf of the people of Ontario.

Instead of doing that, I suggest that when the Premier said to the people of the province in August 1987, "I need a mandate to speak out on free trade," that is not what he was really asking for. What he was asking for was a majority so he would not need to say what the people of the province wanted him to say. That is one of the ironies of the democratic process. You cannot look at this last election and look at what has taken place without regarding it as one of the great ironies of our time.

Here is a man who was elected because he held out to the people of Ontario that he was going to be the saviour against free trade and who, as soon as he is elected, admits there is nothing he can do. That is what this House is all about.

We have started out on a strange note and on a strange basis. We have started out on the basis of a Premier who said he was going to do something and has turned around and not done it. It started out on the basis of a government saying it needed a mandate to do something and has chosen very directly not to do it. It started out on the basis of a government which, 95 members strong, had all the opportunities to state clearly what it was going to do with respect to this question of free trade and then to move in the areas where governments have been expected to move, instead of which we have, as I said earlier, an approach that says it is not going to be even business as usual; it is going to be less than usual.

In conclusion, one cannot help but think that there are many people today who, as time unfolds—and I have no idea whether that time will be this week or in three weeks, 10 weeks, two months, five months or 10 months—will have a sense of betrayal. Northerners who heard the words of the Premier expected him to do more for them, to invest on their behalf, to do more to diversify their economy. We have a northern Ontario heritage fund which still has not been invested or dealt with or taken seriously at all. We have a major environmental crisis going on in the Temagami area and we have no response from the government one way or the other with respect to what it is going to do.

We have a two-headed Ministry of Northern Development and Ministry of Mines, which has two ministers and one deputy minister. There are very few examples I can think of—why are there two ministers of Northern Development and Mines—a Minister of Mines (Mr. Conway) and a Minister of Northern Development (Mr. Fontaine)—but one department? Has anybody ever reflected on that for a moment: one deputy and one department? What a brilliant—it is like

René and his bodyguard. That is what it is, René and his bodyguard. That is the government that is there. It is the most curious structure one can imagine. There are many examples of ministries that have two separate deputies, but this is a new one on us. I find it curious that the Minister of Mines has been given a portfolio but has not been given a department. He has a driver, but he has nowhere to go. It is a sad change in the life of the former Minister of Education, but there it is.

The treatment of the people of the north is but one example of the sense of frustration—I do not think “betrayal” is too strong a word—which I believe people in this province are going to begin to feel more and more towards a government which, Lord knows, has succeeded in the world of public relations. It has certainly succeeded in the area of looking good; has indeed, on many issues, succeeded in the area of sounding good, appearing to sound good; but I say that is not the test we apply to government. We apply the test to governments of governments that do well and do something, and that is the test that this government has not met.

Therefore, I move, seconded by the member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. D. S. Cooke) that the motion for an address in reply to the speech from the throne be amended.

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Mr. Speaker: Mr. B. Rae moves that the motion for an address in reply to the speech from the throne be amended by adding the following words:

“This House, however, regrets that the speech from the throne fails to respond adequately to urgent and pressing issues facing this province and condemns the government for:

“breaking its promise to veto the trade agreement signed by the governments of Canada and the United States, including refusing to commit itself unconditionally to not implement those parts of the agreement falling under provincial jurisdiction;

“ignoring the enormous challenges of inequality and poverty in Ontario;

“continuing to put the interests of private insurance corporations before the drivers of Ontario by proposing weak and flawed measures to deal with the insurance crisis;

“failing to protect the environment and to enforce existing laws effectively;

“failing to provide the means to deal with the challenges of education and literacy;

“failing to act on the needs of our elderly by reforming the private and public pension systems

in Ontario, including guaranteeing indexed pensions;

“ignoring the ongoing scandal of the compensation and rehabilitation systems for injured workers;

“failing to reform the administration of our health and social services in an imaginative and effective way;

“insulting northern Ontarians with an incoherent, ill-conceived and underfunded approach to the serious economic and social challenges facing that area of our province;

“failing to provide comprehensive and enforceable employment equity programs that would benefit women, visible minorities, the disabled and native Canadians in the workplace;

“paying lipservice to the needs of the homeless and others unable to afford decent housing throughout Ontario, but failing to deal with the crisis with adequate programs;

“and falling instantly into the miasma of complacency and doubletalk so often associated with large majority governments.

“Therefore, this House declares its lack of confidence in this government.”

Mr. Speaker: I believe this matter will be dealt with at a further time. Would someone care to adjourn the debate?

On motion by Mr. Harris, the debate was adjourned.

NOTICES OF DISSATISFACTION

Mr. Speaker: Just before I call on the House leader, pursuant to standing order 30, the member for Markham (Mr. Cousens) has given notice of his dissatisfaction with the answer to his question given by the Minister of Housing (Ms. Hošek) concerning her statements made in the *Globe and Mail* on Wednesday, November 4, 1987. This matter will be debated at 6 p.m. next Tuesday.

Also pursuant to the same standing order, the member for Beaches-Woodbine (Ms. Bryden) has given notice of her dissatisfaction with the answer to her question given by the Minister without Portfolio responsible for senior citizens' affairs (Mrs. Wilson). This matter will also be debated at 6 p.m. next Tuesday.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Mr. Conway: Noting that members are speeding away, I simply want to draw everyone's attention to the fact that next week, the week of November 16, the entire week will be given over to the throne speech debate. In preparation for that, I wish everyone a good trip home tonight.

The House adjourned at 4:57 p.m.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*

(130 seats)

First Session, 34th Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. Lincoln M. Alexander, PC, QC

Adams, Peter (Peterborough L)
 Allen, Richard (Hamilton West NDP)
 Ballinger, William G. (Durham-York L)
 Beer, Charles (York North L)
 Black, Kenneth H. (Muskoka-Georgian Bay L)
 Bossy, Maurice L. (Chatham-Kent L)
Bradley, Hon. James J., Minister of the Environment (St. Catharines L)
 Brandt, Andrew S. (Sarnia PC)
 Breagh, Michael J. (Oshawa NDP)
 Brown, Michael A. (Algoma-Manitoulin L)
 Bryden, Marion H. (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
 Callahan, Robert V. (Brampton South L)
 Campbell, Sterling (Sudbury L)
Caplan, Hon. Elinor, Minister of Health (Oriole L)
 Carrothers, Douglas A. (Oakville South L)
 Charlton, Brian A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)
 Chiarelli, Robert (Ottawa West L)
 Cleary, John C. (Cornwall L)
 Collins, Shirley (Wentworth East L)
Conway, Hon. Sean G., Minister of Mines (Renfrew North L)
 Cooke, David R. (Kitchener L)
 Cooke, David S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
 Cordiano, Joseph (Lawrence L)
 Cousens, W. Donald (Markham PC)
 Cureatz, Sam L. (Durham East PC)
Curling, Hon. Alvin, Minister of Skills Development (Scarborough North L)
 Daigeler, Hans (Nepean L)
 Dietsch, Michael M. (St. Catharines-Brock L)
Eakins, Hon. John F., Minister of Municipal Affairs (Victoria-Haliburton L)
Edighoffer, Hon. Hugh A., Speaker (Perth L)
 Elliot, R. Walter (Halton North L)
Elston, Hon. Murray J., Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Bruce L)
 Epp, Herbert A. (Waterloo North L)
 Eves, Ernie L. (Parry Sound PC)
 Farnan, Michael (Cambridge NDP)
 Faubert, Frank (Scarborough-Ellesmere L)
 Fawcett, Joan M. (Northumberland L)
 Ferraro, Rick E. (Guelph L)
 Fleet, David (High Park-Swansea L)
Fontaine, Hon. René, Minister of Northern Development (Cochrane North L)

Fulton, Hon. Ed, Minister of Transportation (Scarborough East L)
 Furlong, Allan W. (Durham Centre L)
Grandmaitre, Hon. Bernard C., Minister of Revenue (Ottawa East L)
 Grier, Ruth A. (Etobicoke-Lakeshore NDP)
 Haggerty, Ray (Niagara South L)
 Hampton, Howard (Rainy River NDP)
 Harris, Michael D. (Nipissing PC)
 Hart, Christine E. (York East L)
 Henderson, D. James (Etobicoke-Humber L)
Hošek, Hon. Chaviva, Minister of Housing (Oakwood L)
 Jackson, Cameron (Burlington South PC)
 Johnson, Jack (Wellington PC)
 Johnston, Richard F. (Scarborough West NDP)
 Kanter, Ron (St. Andrew-St. Patrick L)
Kerrio, Hon. Vincent G., Minister of Natural Resources (Niagara Falls L)
 Keyes, Kenneth A. (Kingston and the Islands L)
 Kozyra, Taras B. (Port Arthur L)
Kwinter, Hon. Monte, Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Wilson Heights L)
 Laughren, Floyd (Nickel Belt NDP)
 LeBourdais, Linda (Etobicoke West L)
 Leone, Laureano (Downsview L)
 Lipsett, Ron (Grey L)
 Lupusella, Tony (Dovercourt L)
 MacDonald, Keith (Prince Edward-Lennox L)
 Mackenzie, Bob (Hamilton East NDP)
 Mahoney, Steven W. (Mississauga West L)
Mancini, Hon. Remo, Minister without Portfolio (Essex South L)
 Marland, Margaret (Mississauga South PC)
 Martel, Shelley (Sudbury East NDP)
 Matrundola, Gino (Willowdale L)
 McCague, George R. (Simcoe West PC)
 McClelland, Carman (Brampton North L)
 McGuigan, James F. (Essex-Kent L)
 McGuinty, Dalton J. (Ottawa South L)
 McLean, Allan K. (Simcoe East PC)
McLeod, Hon. Lyn, Minister of Colleges and Universities (Fort William L)
 Miclash, Frank (Kenora L)
 Miller, Gordon I. (Norfolk L)
 Morin, Gilles E. (Carleton East L)
 Morin-Strom, Karl E. (Sault Ste. Marie NDP)

Munro, Hon. Lily O., Minister of Culture and Communications (Hamilton Centre L)
 Neumann, David E. (Brantford L)
 Nicholas, Cindy (Scarborough Centre L)
 Nixon, J. Bradford (York Mills L)
Nixon, Hon. Robert F., Deputy Premier, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics and Minister of Financial Institutions (Brant-Haldimand L)
 Offer, Steven (Mississauga North L)
O'Neil, Hon. Hugh P., Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Quinte L)
 O'Neill, Yvonne (Ottawa-Rideau L)
 Owen, Bruce (Simcoe Centre L)
Patten, Hon. Richard, Minister of Government Services (Ottawa Centre L)
 Pelissero, Harry E. (Lincoln L)
Peterson, Hon. David R., Premier and President of the Council and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (London Centre L)
 Philip, Ed (Etobicoke-Rexdale NDP)
Phillips, Hon. Gerry, Minister of Citizenship (Scarborough-Agincourt L)
 Poirier, Jean, Deputy Speaker and Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House (Prescott and Russell L)
 Pollock, Jim (Hastings-Peterborough PC)
 Polsinelli, Claudio (Yorkview L)
 Poole, Dianne (Eglinton L)
 Pope, Alan W. (Cochrane South PC)
 Pouliot, Gilles (Lake Nipigon NDP)
 Rae, Bob (York South NDP)
Ramsay, Hon. David, Minister of Correctional Services (Timiskaming L)
 Ray, Michael C. (Windsor-Walkerville L)
 Reville, David (Riverdale NDP)
 Reycraft, Douglas R. (Middlesex L)
Riddell, Hon. Jack, Minister of Agriculture and Food (Huron L)
 Roberts, Marietta L. D., Deputy Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House (Elgin L)

Runciman, Robert W. (Leeds-Grenville PC)
 Ruprecht, Tony (Parkdale L)
Scott, Hon. Ian G., Attorney General (St. George-St. David L)
 Smith, David W. (Lambton L)
Smith, Hon. E. Joan, Solicitor General (London South L)
 Sola, John (Mississauga East L)
Sorbara, Hon. Gregory S., Minister of Labour (York Centre L)
 South, Larry (Frontenac-Addington L)
 Sterling, Norman W. (Carleton PC)
 Stoner, Norah (Durham West L)
 Sullivan, Barbara (Halton Centre L)
 Swart, Mel (Welland-Thorold NDP)
Sweeney, Hon. John, Minister of Community and Social Services (Kitchener-Wilmot L)
 Tatham, Charlie (Oxford L)
 Van Horne, Ronald G. (London North L)
 Velshi, Murad (Don Mills L)
 Villeneuve, Noble (Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry PC)
Ward, Hon. Christopher C., Minister of Education (Wentworth North L)
 Wildman, Bud (Algoma NDP)
Wilson, Hon. Mavis, Minister without Portfolio (Dufferin-Peel L)
 Wiseman, Douglas J. (Lanark-Renfrew PC)
Wong, Hon. Robert C., Minister of Energy (Fort York L)
Wrye, Hon. William, Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Windsor-Sandwich L)

*The alphabetical list of members appears in each issue. Lists of the members of the executive council, parliamentary assistants and members of committees, brought up to date as necessary, are published in Hansard in the first and last issues of each session and on the first sitting day of each month.

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Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

First Session, 34th Parliament

Monday, November 16, 1987

Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer

Clerk of the House: Claude L. DesRosiers

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Monday, November 16, 1987

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

Prayers.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE

Mr. Swart: After two and a half years of a Liberal government in this province, the horrendous auto insurance injustice still exists. I want to tell the House about Christine and Jeff Dakin, a young couple who live in my riding. They both drive the same 1978 Pontiac Parisienne and they both have excellent records.

On September 1 of this year, on his way to fight a fire, Jeff's car slid out of control on slippery pavement and hit a signpost. He is a volunteer firefighter with No. 2 company in Welland. On the advice of his broker, he pleaded guilty to a charge of careless driving. Shortly thereafter, they received a letter saying they had not made the broker aware of the charge and that their insurance rate would be increased from \$60 a month to \$234 a month until their policy expired in June, at which time it would not be renewed. Jeff and Christine have now been quoted premiums of \$4,000 a year for the next three years.

If Jeff and Christine lived in Brandon, Manitoba, their insurance would remain the same, although Jeff would have had to pay a one-time surcharge on his driver's licence of \$150. Yet this Liberal government is unashamedly backing and promoting the Ontario private insurance companies, which have been and are perpetrating these horrible kinds of injustices.

EDUCATION

Mr. Jackson: The philosophy of education in this province has evolved since the Second World War into a humane process in which children learn at a pace commensurate with their abilities and aptitudes. This philosophy of individualized instruction has moved Ontario to the forefront of education throughout the world.

In the speech from the throne, much was made of returning back to the basics through standard benchmarks, testing and reporting to parents. In addition, the government mentioned the encouragement of the entrepreneurial spirit of children,

which will reinforce the competitive nature of children. As necessary and basic as entrepreneurial skills are in the curricula, great care will need to be taken to ensure that pre-established benchmarks do not result in stultifying the pace of both gifted children and those children who have difficulty in keeping pace with their peers in Ontario.

HOSPICE KING

Mr. Beer: I ask members to join me today in congratulating an organization in my riding by the name of Hospice King. Their recent video production, *At Life's End*, has been chosen by the Palliative Care Foundation of Canada as the best 1987 professional Canadian production about palliative care services. Hospice King is a community-based home care service for people suffering terminal illness who have chosen to spend their remaining time at home.

Hospice King is one of Canada's pioneer services in this field. Team volunteers assist the patients and their families to find the greatest satisfaction available within the time remaining by providing support, companionship and friendship through home visits, short-term respite care and around-the-clock availability of volunteer health care professionals. No diagnosis and no age limits are excluded from the Hospice King program.

The video, *At Life's End*, was produced to meet the need to educate the people of King township about the services available at the hospice. Its première showing in September was before an audience of 250 representatives of government health and social service agencies and interested citizens. Since then, word has spread about the video and requests for taped copies of it have been received from all parts of the country.

I commend Mrs. Jane Reid, president of Hospice King, and the volunteers for their community spirit and their responsiveness to the needs of those they serve.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Miss Martel: I would like to make a further comment for the benefit of the Minister of

Labour (Mr. Sorbara), even though he does not happen to be here right now.

Further to our exchange of both Monday and Tuesday last, I would like to reiterate my frustration at how his ministry is handling health and safety concerns in this province. I am appalled that in a specific case related to him last week his simple answer was that there will not be charges laid against Inco Ltd. I do not believe it is all that simple.

When the ministry itself is responsible for the loss of a file, wherein prosecutions most likely would have occurred, then the ministry must assume responsibility for that incompetence. I cannot believe that nothing further can be done in the way of laying charges. I find it very strange that in a case where charges probably would have been laid, the file is lost before a final determination is made.

Last Tuesday the minister stated that as a consequence of this affair a special investigations officer had been appointed to track cases in the system. The fact that an individual must be put in place solely to follow files through the ministry reinforces the belief that chaos reigns in the Ministry of Labour. It does not bode well for the workers of Ontario. My sense is that we have only seen the tip of the iceberg.

Finally, in reference to the minister's comments that I am stealing other people's lines, let me say that if the shoe fits, wear it. If he does not like the terms of reference, then he had better do something about the public perception of his ministry.

DISTRICT OF PARRY SOUND

Mr. Eves: I would like to rise to bring to the government's attention once again the need for the district of Parry Sound to be included as part of northern Ontario for the purposes of all government ministries, agencies, boards and commissions.

Not so long ago, the parliamentary assistant to the then Minister of Northern Development and Mines, who was one and the same person as the Premier (Mr. Peterson), was in my riding. He is sitting over there squirming a little bit. I do not doubt that he would be. He promised municipal leaders and officials, during the course of a provincial election campaign of course, that Parry Sound district would be included in northern Ontario and that he would be very supportive and make sure the government delivered on this commitment.

I am looking forward with some interest to see whether the government chooses to move on this

in one of its next few cabinet meetings—it takes all of about five minutes of cabinet's time to take this very initial and important step for the people in Parry Sound district. We have all kinds of assurances from the Premier and other people in government that indeed the district of Parry Sound should be part of northern Ontario.

In its last session, this Legislature unanimously passed that the Parry Sound district should be included in northern Ontario. We are looking forward to people on that side of the House delivering on this commitment, especially the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon), who is also the Deputy Premier. If the Treasurer is not so moved in a cabinet meeting before then, I hope in his upcoming economic statement he will move to give the importance to Parry Sound district that it deserves from every single ministry in this government.

TRANSIT SERVICES

Ms. Bryden: The recent announcement by the Toronto Transit Commission, proposing a five per cent fare increase, effective this January, draws attention to the fact that under the present cost-sharing formula transit riders in Metro pay 68 per cent of TTC operating costs while the province contributes only 16 per cent. In contrast, the province pays close to half of the operating costs of GO Transit.

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The Peterson government should immediately increase funding levels for the TTC to end this discrimination against Metro riders, who now pay a larger share of transit costs through the fare box than riders in any other Ontario city.

The proposed fare increases will raise the cash fare from \$1 to \$1.05 for a one-way ride and will increase the Metropass rate by 5.7 per cent from \$43.50 to \$46 per month. Tokens and tickets will go up to \$7 for eight instead of \$5 for six. Hardest hit by these increases will be the low-income earners, the unemployed, the single-parent students, the disabled and seniors.

I urge the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Fulton) to sit down with the TTC and work out a new cost-sharing formula as soon as possible so that TTC riders get a fair shake.

WASTE DISPOSAL

Mr. J. M. Johnson: I would like to bring to the attention of the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley) my very serious concerns about the sanitary waste problems not only in my county of Wellington but also in Metro and many other parts of the province.

The minister seems concerned about solving major problems of the world such as acid rain but he does not pay much attention to the problems relating to small rural municipalities such as Fergus, Elora and Nichol township. The member for Norfolk (Mr. G. I. Miller) will realize that some of the places he was in not long ago do have a problem with sanitary waste.

They are looking at energy from waste facilities, recycling and many other ways of solving the problem. What they need is leadership from the Minister of the Environment to provide them with the kind of incentives to encourage them to take that direction instead of simply burying the garbage.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

TRADE WITH UNITED STATES

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: I have a brief statement for the Legislature today.

Companies in Ontario, like those across Canada, know they must have a competitive edge to thrive in international and domestic markets. In 1985, Ontario manufacturers exported more than \$55 billion in goods and employed more than one million people. However, some manufacturing industries are more sensitive than others to the pressure of international trade. The proposed free trade agreement will heighten these sensitivities.

In 1986-87, the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology consulted with the representatives of manufacturing industries that are the major employers and exporters in the province. We needed to know how well they thought they could do under a trade agreement with the United States and what advantages and risks would be imposed on their industries.

In the summer of 1987, the initial version of this report was forwarded to the federal government for comment. Our discussions resulted in a report that is called *The Sectoral and Regional Sensitivities of Ontario Manufacturing Industries to Tariff Reductions*. I am releasing this report today and an executive summary is available which outlines the findings.

The report concludes that there are 400,000 jobs at risk to increased imports from the United States as a result of the proposed trade pact. These jobs are found in 74 different industries located throughout the province. Even those industries which responded favourably to the federal initiative based their support on obtaining secure access to the US market, free from trade harassment. The proposed free trade pact does not achieve this goal.

This report should help all members assess the impact of the proposed free trade agreement on a regional and province-wide basis.

ANNUAL REPORT, ONTARIO ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR DISABLED PERSONS

Hon. Mr. Mancini: It is my pleasure to table the 12th annual report of the Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped.

Let me say how much I value the advice and years of experience that members of my advisory council bring to their work as we co-operate in the job of achieving full social and economic equality for disabled persons.

I would like to point out that the council now has a new name—the Ontario Advisory Council for Disabled Persons. This is an important name change, which reflects a broadening of their sphere of concern. The Ontario government is committed to finding solutions to many issues affecting all disabled persons. The new name of the council emphasizes that fact.

Today in the Speaker's gallery, I would like to recognize the advisory council vice-chairman, Karen Glen-Freeland, and Mary Tate, the executive officer. Thank you very much for coming.

The assistance of the advisory council is crucial as the Ontario government shapes policy to improve opportunities for disabled persons in employment, independent living, education and transportation.

Last year the Ontario Advisory Council for Disabled Persons prepared an excellent and in-depth report on transportation issues affecting disabled persons entitled *The Freedom to Move is Life Itself*. The report was produced with the co-operation of the Ontario Advisory Council on Senior Citizens and represents a tremendous investment of effort and time.

The *Freedom to Move is Life Itself* addresses short-term, medium-term and long-term goals and makes 56 recommendations aimed at solving transportation problems for disabled persons and seniors. The interministry committee on accessible transportation is reviewing the report and will present all of its recommendations in the new year.

Other priorities of the advisory council are physical accessibility and employment equity. Copies of the annual report have been sent to all members, and they should have received them by now.

HEALTH PROMOTION

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: As the throne speech noted, our health care system does an excellent

job of treating people who are ill; but our government is on record as supporting a concept of health which goes beyond the treatment of disease.

In recent years, we have seen tremendous growth in new medical technologies, new procedures and new patterns of care. Paralleling these developments has been a change in our basic attitudes and understanding about health itself.

This new attitude says that health is much more than the treatment of illness. Instead, health is seen as a resource for everyday living, and people should be given encouragement and incentives to protect that resource. This attitude of health promotion says that our six biggest killers, our six biggest health threats—including cancer, trauma and heart and stroke disease—are largely preventable.

This is a concept of health to which I, as minister, bring a personal commitment. Health promotion is the wave of the health care future in this province.

In the last year, our government has received three studies on the state of our health and health care future. Two of these reports, that of the Ontario Health Review Panel, chaired by Dr. John Evans, and the Panel on Health Goals for Ontario, chaired by Dr. Robert Spasoff, have already been made public. Both reports have recommended, among other things, that Ontarians be encouraged and given the incentives to take more personal responsibility for their own health and that government must become serious about health promotion.

Today, I am pleased to table in the House the third and final link in this stocktaking process, the Podborski report on health promotion in Ontario. We believe it will help our government plan that healthy public policy to which Evans and Spasoff referred.

The report is a direct result of public discussion with citizens in nine Ontario communities on their health needs and expectations. By going to the source—the people of Ontario—the group learned exactly what people think of their health and the factors affecting it.

We will always need the expert care of our hospitals and health care professionals. What the Podborski report—indeed all three reports—are suggesting is that we must broaden our understanding of health and the health system to include those programs that keep people well.

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With the announcement of the Premier's Council on Health Strategy, our government has

made a commitment to reorient the Ontario health system towards the prevention of disease and not just the treatment of illness. Our \$100-million health innovation fund will allow us to try out several new health options and choices, and programs that emphasize health promotion and disease prevention will be a priority of this fund.

The Podborski report will also be a welcome complement to health promotion activities recently begun in my ministry.

We have established a new health promotion branch whose staff is currently helping to implement a \$2.5-million program of community health promotion grants and healthy lifestyles advertising. This effort, a first for the Ontario government, involves the distribution of materials to groups to carry out health promotion on their own, grants for nonprofit groups for worthwhile health promotion activities and the development of a sophisticated healthy lifestyles campaign.

We expect these efforts, as they get under way in earnest, will be reinforced by the Podborski report. Members of the Pod squad, as they are known in the Ministry of Health, were supposed to be in the visitors' gallery today; they will be here later this afternoon. I will introduce them when they arrive, but I would like to thank them in advance for the thorough manner in which they undertook their assignment.

Their report will be an important resource as we work to establish health promotion, whether it is showing people how to manage stress—especially here in the Legislature—and avoid heart disease, or teaching young, disadvantaged mothers-to-be about proper nutrition as part of everyday living.

RESPONSES

TRADE WITH UNITED STATES

Mr. B. Rae: I want to reply to the statement that has come under the name of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Mr. Kwinter) and again emphasize that although these studies are all very well, they are hardly news. In fact, they represent precisely the views that were expressed to the select committee on economic affairs more than two years ago and simply confirm precisely the statements that have been made for some time.

We, of course, can now expect to be receiving reports on an almost daily basis. I suspect we will receive one soon from the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell) and from a number

of other individuals in the House with respect to the studies the government has been preparing.

However, I do think the government has to make up its mind; that is to say, it cannot make a statement saying that 400,000 jobs are at risk and then not tell the House what it intends to do to make sure those jobs are protected. The government cannot come into the House and say the sky is going to fall in and have no plan or provision to deal with the consequences of what it is announcing. It will not do for the minister to come before us in this House and make statement after statement saying, "This sector is going to be devastated; this sector is going to be devastated; jobs are going to be lost here," and then throw up his hands and say, "I wish we could do something about it."

We expect the government to act. We expect the government to tell us what it is going to do. If it thinks this deal is so bad, we expect the government to stop it.

ANNUAL REPORT, ONTARIO ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR DISABLED PERSONS

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I would like to welcome the minister's first statement in the House as minister and welcome the change in the title of the advisory committee to include more disabled people than just the physically handicapped. His predecessor's habit was mostly one of spending money on pictures of himself to be sent around the province; we will just hope that in the future we will not see the situation in the last annual report, where even in a letter to the minister, his predecessor somehow got his picture on it. I hope we will not see that happen next time.

Mr. B. Rae: To the minister?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: A letter to the minister, not from the minister; let us be clear about this.

As always, the advisory committee is careful in its wording and its criticism of government but helpful in what it focuses on; less noisy perhaps than some of us who have been critics in the past, but talking about issues that are of vital importance. I would like to draw to the minister's attention a couple of those we have been talking about a great deal.

One is the recommendation about a universal disability insurance plan for Ontario. I would ask the minister to make this one of his concentrations over the next little while. The other is the concern about employment equity, something on which I do not believe we have yet seen the follow-up action we were expecting from this government. Finally, if the minister will note the comments about accessibility to housing in

Ontario, it says that all high-rise buildings should be totally accessible to the handicapped and not just segments of them, which is present government policy.

HEALTH PROMOTION

Mr. Reville: I want to respond briefly to the announcement by the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan) today of the tabling of the report called Health Promotion Matters in Ontario. I think everyone in the House will have no trouble in agreeing with some of the sentiments expressed in the minister's statement, but I might point out that this is not news, and in fact it is typical of the style of this government to regurgitate ad nauseam stuff that is not news and then to say that it is committed to studying the concept which it has borrowed from generations past of health promotion advocates.

I think we should be grateful that the Pod squad has, in fact, managed to collect a lot of the wisdom of many years in a nice book, but this government has already generated lots of nice books and has generated little in terms of real action. It seems to me it is past time when we should be talking about puny amounts like \$2.5 million in community health program grants when it has already been demonstrated over and over again in tiny little projects that struggle to deliver their mandate that, in fact, health promotion is what we should be doing in the province and what we should have been doing over these many years. I, frankly, am finding it very stressful to hear the Minister of Health talk again about being interested in health promotion but doing almost nothing about it.

TRADE WITH UNITED STATES

Mr. Brandt: I would like to respond briefly to the report that was released by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Mr. Kwinter) and also in reference to the comments he has made. It is interesting to note that the reports being released by the minister are, in fact, telling us about jobs that are "at risk" or that are sensitive, but on all of the occasions that we have received releases of reports in this House the minister has not as yet identified any job gains that are going to be realized as a result of a trade deal that would be entered into with the United States.

He knows full well that there are two sides to the coin and he knows, as well, that Ontario has benefited very substantially by a reduction in tariffs through the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade negotiations over the years and that

what they are talking about with respect to a free trade deal is, in fact, a level playing field that would make the trade activities between ourselves and the US more fair and more equitable than they are now.

The minister may gain a headline tomorrow saying that 400,000 Ontario jobs will be lost, but I can tell him that headline will be totally inaccurate because there are many other studies that have come to an entirely different conclusion than the one he has presented to us this afternoon. The national economic council has indicated that 350,000 net new jobs will be created in Canada as a result of a trade deal with the US. That runs absolutely contrary to the kind of information the minister is presenting before us.

Also, there is no reference whatever to how many of those 400,000 jobs would be at risk without a trade deal. Last week when the Minister of Labour (Mr. Sorbara) made some comments with regard to 100,000 jobs, primarily female jobs, being lost as a result of a trade deal with the US, it was pointed out very clearly in the last report that was released that some of those jobs are now at risk as a result of competition from Third World countries.

We know full well that the trade arrangement that has been entered into at the moment, which is to be ratified in the near future, calls for an adjustment period of one, five and 10 years, and it is interesting to note that the very industries the minister has identified in his report have in many instances already indicated they can live with that. Industries that are represented by the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, banks, accountants and the Canadian Federation of Independent Business have all indicated they are in favour of a trade agreement, yet the minister's report comes out and once more highlights nothing other than the negative side without giving us a balanced and I think fairer picture of what will actually happen under free trade. When is the minister going to come forward with the other reports, which are in his ministry, regarding the net job gains that would be realized from a trade package?

1400

ANNUAL REPORT, ONTARIO ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR DISABLED PERSONS

Mrs. Marland: I would like to join in commendation of the Ontario Advisory Council for Disabled Persons on this very excellent report. However, I would like to point out to the government that the report it refers to in the statement by the minister today, The Freedom to

Move is Life Itself, in fact was a report that was issued in March 1987. I am rather disappointed to read in this statement today that a report issued in March 1987 is to be referred to the interministry committee on accessible transportation. They are to review the report and will present their recommendations in the new year.

I have to ask how long it takes to review a report from March 1987 and not consider any recommendations until the new year. When we look at the number of disabled people in Ontario, we are talking about in excess of half a million people. The Premier (Mr. Peterson) announced in his campaign when he was reaching the height of enthusiasm of his re-election announcements that there would be \$84 million in the next five years to improve transportation for the disabled. I suggest that \$84 million over five years is simply not enough to address the problem, nor is it coming quickly enough.

ORAL QUESTIONS

Mr. Speaker: The Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. B. Rae: In the light of the lateness of the Premier (Mr. Peterson), I will stand down my questions until he arrives.

Mr. Speaker: Is there agreement?

Agreed to.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Sarnia.

Mr. Brandt: I have the same problem. I would prefer to stand down my questions as well until the Premier arrives.

Mr. Speaker: Is there agreement?

Agreed to.

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE

Mr. Swart: I have a question for the Minister of Financial Institutions. I am sure he will be aware that just a few days ago the universities of Canada decided they would institute their own nonprofit self-operated insurance system to get away from the ripoff of the private insurance companies. He will also know this follows similar action by Ontario hospitals, school boards, rural municipalities, architects, lawyers and various other groups.

Given the success of these self-operated plans—and they all say they are extremely successful—why does the minister reject out of hand a nonprofit, self-operated, driver-owned system for the motorists of this province?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: The honourable member will know that the government of Ontario was supportive and in fact instrumental in the reciprocal types of insurance he is referring to,

particularly as it pertains to our schools. The present House leader, the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway), was very much involved in the initiative for reciprocal insurance for school boards, hospitals and a variety of other provincial institutions. Only the municipalities have not proceeded in any enthusiastic way with reciprocal insurance.

Even the government of Ontario itself is self-insuring and if, God forbid, anything were to happen to this fine building and it had to be replaced, we would simply have to turn to the taxpayers rather than insurance underwriters in that connection.

The member is talking about a driver-owned automobile insurance alternative. In the case of a good many of my constituents, they are insured with the Co-operators insurance, which like other mutual companies is legally owned by the insurers. Everybody has that alternative available.

Mr. Swart: The minister must know that the Co-operators is not a co-operative insurance company but that it is a part of the present system in Ontario that has been ripping off the motorists of this province. Does the minister not realize the tremendous savings these nonprofit, self-operated insurance exchanges are providing? For instance, the universities estimate they are going to save \$2 million to \$3 million for the universities in Canada. The hospitals' self-operated, nonprofit insurance system is saving about \$7 million in Ontario this year.

Given that auto insurance premiums in this province now approximate some \$3 billion annually, will he not have an independent firm of financial consultants such as Woods Gordon do a comprehensive comparison of the nonprofit, driver-owned auto insurance system in the three western provinces, compared to the exploitive, unjust system in this province?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: The member will know that we have before the House now a very well constructed and well-thought-out bill which we hope will be debated and approved just as soon as the throne speech debate is completed. We look forward to the constructive type of debate that we always get from the honourable members on all sides, particularly the member for Welland-Thorold, and as soon as we get it carried, if we do, and get it reviewed by a committee, we hope to appoint a rate review board which is going to be in the best interests of the consumers of automobile insurance services right across this province.

The honourable member, when he examines the details of this bill, is going to be as enthusiastically in favour of it as he has been on the alternative upon which he campaigned just a few weeks ago.

COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES

Mr. Harris: I have a note here that the Premier (Mr. Peterson) is due at about 2:30. I understand he is on a phone-in show from the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, up to his knees in something. Unfortunately, that is more important than the Legislature, so I will ask a question to the Minister of Housing (Ms. Hošek).

Would the minister tell the House what the Ontario taxpayers have gotten for the more than \$3.1 million they have invested in the Thom commission?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: The honourable member opposite knows that the Thom commission report was commissioned by the previous government, which his party ran.

Interjections.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: One before this one.

The Thom commission report is actually in the process of being translated, and when it is, it will be released.

Mr. Harris: The question was what we have gotten out of it. So far, I assume from that that the minister has not read it or that staff did not give the minister a briefing note on anything that is in it.

The Premier, as leader of the official opposition, three years ago called on the government of the day "to do the humane thing and put the commission out of its misery." The minister's boss also charged that the commission had lost all credibility and should be abolished.

Last year, an aide to the former Minister of Housing was reported as saying: "It doesn't matter what Mr. Thom concludes. If we don't like it, we will dismiss what he says, and if we do like it, we will say, 'Isn't this wonderful?'"

Given these facts, can the minister tell us why her government spent nearly \$1.5 million over the last two years on a commission which it claims had no credibility, to get a report which it indicated it intends to ignore?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I am very surprised that the member should put himself in the position of saying that a report his party commissioned when it was in government had no credibility.

Interjections.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: The Thom commission report is indeed completed, it is in the process of being translated and it will be up to the members of the House to see, when it is released, how much credibility they believe it has. We believe it has some things to say that people may find interesting.

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PENSION BENEFITS

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I have a question for the Treasurer. Why, right after the stock market crash, did he indicate that pension indexation may have to be delayed as a result of the stock market crash, when one considers that the annual return in Canadian pension funds in the past 10 years, on average, has been 14.2 per cent, that the average yearly total return on the Toronto Stock Exchange 300 over the past two years has been 16.7 per cent and that it is estimated there is still at least a \$10-billion surplus in pension plans? Why would the minister's immediate reaction be that the people who have paid into these pension plans, the workers, are going to have to be further penalized by not having indexation because of the stock market crash?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: To begin with, it was not a very useful comment on my part. Second, I thought it was quite important that we find out just what effect the reduction in the portfolio of stocks held would have on the viability and the surplus, as is in most cases the fact, in the various private pension plans that are under the jurisdiction of the Pension Commission of Ontario. I have looked into that, and while I cannot verify the information that has come from the honourable member, the fact that in a good many cases the losses in stocks are balanced by gains and improvements on bonds is certainly a part of the factual position.

I would say further to the member that while we await the report of the special committee that is going to advise the government on indexing, recognizing that the bill that has been approved by the House recognizes and accepts the principle of indexing, we are going to have to look at all the changing factors that relate to it. I do not really apologize for the fact that those matters have got to be considered, and they will be.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I thought the minister said he apologized that he was wrong, but at the end said he might have been right.

However, does the minister understand that a very small portion of the pension funds are actually in stocks, about \$35 billion out of \$129 billion? Does he also remember that when the

committee that was studying pensions was talking about indexation, companies like Ford, General Motors and Chrysler made presentations and said that if their pension plans were indexed, they would go broke? They very recently negotiated contracts that indexed their pension plans for their employees.

Would the minister give us a commitment today that pension indexation is fair and that when the report is received, the government will proceed quickly so that workers can get their fair share in return on their pension funds?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, you would be aware that the government of the day took the initiative in presenting legislation to this House that accepted the principle of indexation, and that has been approved by the House; it is now the law of the land. When the report—

Mr. Breaugh: How did that come about?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Who could possibly have put pressure on us to do that? It does not make sense. It was simply a decision taken on its merits. Further, we are awaiting with a great deal of interest the report that will be forthcoming, and the government action of the day will be announced at the appropriate time. I do not think there is any great battle about this thing; indexing is now a part of our legislated law.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Mr. Sterling: I have a question of the Attorney General. On June 8 of this year, he stated it was his intention to have the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act proclaimed on either September 1 or October 1. We have been continually denied reports and information that would be available under the freedom-of-information act. I can understand why he did not have it proclaimed during the election period, but now October 1 has long since past. He took two years to have this legislation carried through this Legislature, when it was the first bill introduced by his government in 1985. Are we going to see the freedom-of-information act proclaimed before this session rises for Christmas?

Hon. Mr. Scott: I thank the honourable member for his question. I recognize his commitment to freedom of information over a long period of time, and I recognize that he has found it a constant frustration that over 15 years he could never get his party or the government which it formed to take the slightest step in releasing information. Now, I too am concerned that there should be access to information, and I know that the press and others are lined up to get

as much information as they can about what went on during the last 42 years. I do not intend, frankly, to impede that—

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Scott: There will be no information about the official opposition in it, of course, but we will have something on all the rest of us.

But as the honourable member knows, we intend that the bill will be effective January 1. The interim acting commissioner is already in place assembling his staff and developing an office, and it will not be long before this Legislature will be asked, on address, to appoint him formally.

January 1 is the date, and I join with the honourable member and, I am sure, the members of all parties in saying that after 40 years, this is a significant achievement of which all those who supported the bill throughout can be proud.

Mr. Sterling: I think it is important to know that it is being declared on January 1 because of an amendment I introduced during that particular hearing, but it could not be proclaimed later than that particular date. The only reason we are now seeing it is a matter of the opposition's attempt to get it forward.

Is it the Attorney General's intention to proclaim all sections of that bill?

Hon. Mr. Scott: I want to make plain that I am very grateful for the efforts the honourable member has made in support of this legislation. His efforts to persuade—to suborn, if necessary—the attitude of his caucus over many years, to trick them, if that is not unparliamentary, into supporting legislation to which they have never exhibited the slightest commitment, have been a major achievement, and I am grateful to the honourable member for the creative role he played. For my part, I think his leadership campaign should be able to raise the prospect to commitment to freedom of information as a sign on his escutcheon.

Now, it is our present intention to proclaim all sections of the bill.

TAX LEVIES

Mr. Wildman: I have a question to the Minister of Municipal Affairs. Would the minister be prepared to grant additional financial assistance under subsection 5(2) of the Ontario Unconditional Grants Act to those municipalities within the jurisdiction of the Central Algoma Board of Education whose ratepayers have experienced unreasonable increases in levies this year because of the 1986 underlevies by the board of education?

Hon. Mr. Eakins: We have been discussing that particular area, but I do not have anything to offer at this time. But we are having discussions on this at the present time.

Mr. Wildman: Is the minister aware that while some of the levies remained the same this year, those that went up substantially went up because last year the Ministry of Education apparently gave wrong advice to the board and, as a result, underlevied substantially, so that we now have a situation where levies are increasing between 50 per cent and 100 per cent in some municipalities for educational purposes.

If the minister is prepared to give assistance to the municipalities that have been hurt this way, can he indicate what, if anything, this government is prepared to do to assist those ratepayers in the unorganized communities in that area who are also experiencing significant increases because of the errors made last year?

Hon. Mr. Eakins: I will be reviewing this again very shortly, and I will report to the member on this particular question he has asked.

1420

ORDER-IN-COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Eves: I have a question of the Minister of Community and Social Services. My question relates to provincial vacancies on the board of management of Belvedere Heights home for the aged. It is a letter that was sent on October 14 from the chairman of that board, James White, to the Minister of Community and Social Services, and I quote from the letter:

"On August 31, 1987, our administrator, Mr. Jack Agema, received a telephone call from one Mrs. Geraldine Walker advising that she had been appointed to the board of Belvedere Heights, effective July 1, 1987, a date two full months before. Shortly thereafter, one of our board members was advised on the street by Mr. Don Heidman that he expected to be the other provincial appointee. However, neither seemed to regard their new appointment of sufficient importance either to attend or to advise the administration of their unavailability to attend the board meeting on September 9. Neither myself, as chairman, nor the home's administrator have yet received any formal notification of the change in appointees. In fact, the Sudbury office of your ministry is as ignorant of developments as we are.

"It is very disturbing to learn of board appointments in the manner outlined above. I am extremely disappointed that the ministry has not

afforded the home the courtesy of an official notification of the changes."

My question to the minister is, what are the criteria and procedures followed with respect to these appointments?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: What the member just described, in fact, did happen. It is unacceptable, and I sincerely hope the new procedures we have put in place will prevent it from ever happening again. It was a member of my staff who did not do what that member was supposed to do. That member is no longer with my staff, and that is all I can say.

Mr. Eves: I suppose the qualifications of these two people have nothing to do with the fact that Geraldine Walker was the defeated candidate seeking the Liberal nomination in Parry Sound riding in the last provincial election. She is currently the vice-president of the provincial Liberal riding association and a director of the federal Liberal riding association. Don Heidman is the treasurer of the provincial riding association, and he is also director of the federal Liberal association. I presume that has absolutely nothing to do with their qualifications or how this was gone about.

Can the minister give us his assurance that there are no more of these skeletons in his closet, in either Parry Sound riding or anywhere else? Can he outline for us what are the new procedures he just referred to?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: I can assure the honourable member that my reference to inappropriate procedures had nothing to do with the qualifications of the people who in fact were appointed—absolutely nothing.

With respect to the second part of the question, I can advise the honourable member that as soon as a renewal or a lapse of membership on a board like that comes up, the person who is currently on the board will be notified well in advance that it is going to happen. The chairman of the board of directors will be notified at the same time.

As soon as another person has been approached and has agreed to accept the new position, once again the chairman of the board will be notified, the person who is being replaced will be notified and, obviously, the person who is going to get the new placement will be notified. That is what did not happen in the past; that is what is being changed.

PENETANGUISHENE MENTAL HEALTH CENTRE

Mr. Reville: I have a question for the Minister of Health. The Ministry of Health operates a

dungeon which is called, in local parlance, the Ridge. It is referred to as Oak Ridge by those of us who do not live in the Penetanguishene-Midland area, and it is called a lot of other things.

In December 1985, Dr. Hucker, who was a consultant commissioned by the previous government to look at Oak Ridge, recommended that it be replaced. In December 1986, the previous Minister of Health of the current government suggested that it should be replaced, and again in April 1987. Now, in October 1987, the Liberal house organ, the *Toronto Star*, has also suggested that it be replaced.

I wonder if the minister would tell the House what the timetable is for the replacement of the Oak Ridge facility.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I am pleased to respond to the Health critic, and I am familiar with the Oak Ridge issue. I am also aware of the structural limitations of the Oak Ridge facility and of the report of Dr. Hucker.

Many of the steps which have been recommended have already been implemented—recruitment of additional medical and nursing staff, enhancement of recreational facilities, electrical upgrading, installation of kitchenettes, laundry rooms and stall showers, renovation to provide physiotherapy rooms and a new admissions ward, reorganization of hospital administration and the establishment of a co-ordinated program for the development and training of staff. Discussions with the federal government are under way as well concerning a new maximum security hospital.

Mr. Reville: It seems that the Minister of Housing (Ms. Hošek) and the Minister of Health get together and plan the style of answer. I am not interested in all those wonderful recommendations that are being implemented. What I am interested in is knowing what the schedule is for the replacement of the Oak Ridge facility, a facility which is called by the psychiatrist-in-chief a time bomb.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: Yes, I share the concern of the critic, and I believe that this cannot happen in a time frame which will be acceptable to the critic. I am aware that whatever course of action we take on this, he will tell me it is not fast enough or quick enough. We are making progress in implementing the recommendations of Dr. Hucker, and I share his concern for the people who are at Oak Ridge. I say to him that we are moving on it as expeditiously as we can.

HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION

Mr. Wiseman: I have a question for the Minister of Transportation. Shortly after this

minister took office, I had a commitment from him and his office that Highway 29 between Carleton Place and Franktown would be reconstructed, and up until this year that commitment was followed: He bought the land and moved the services. But the highway was to be reconstructed in 1987. We found in 1987 that it was put off for this year and perhaps another year.

In view of the fact that there have been about 130 serious accidents on that road over the last three years, 32 of them serious accidents and eight to nine of those resulting in death; in view of the fact that he has made a commitment; and with the condition of this highway and the number of accidents and the numbers of deaths, would the minister give a commitment today to the people of Lanark-Renfrew and all the people who use that section of road that he will reconstruct it early in 1988?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: I thank my friend for the question. He would be aware, of course, that there are times when, because of soil conditions or weather conditions, as we have experienced, some projects are delayed. But I certainly will give him the undertaking to review the circumstances, and certainly the accident rate around Highway 29, to see if there is something that can be done to speed up that project.

Mr. Wiseman: I would ask the minister, in view of the fact that the Liberal candidate in the last election said he had it from a reliable source that if he were elected, that section of highway would be reconstructed at once; and in view of the answer he gave me just a few minutes ago and the added money that was pumped in prior to and during the election for additional highway construction, does he not think it about time that he stop playing politics with the lives of the people of Lanark-Renfrew and all the people who use that highway to get to and from their tourist establishments? Will he not give that commitment to them today? Does he not think he owes it to them?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: I would not want to be sitting over in those benches and suggest for a minute that we have used highways as election gimmicks in this province. I could start with Highway 1 and finish around 699. We will not even talk about Highways 16 and 17 down his way.

But of course, as I said in my first response, I would be only too happy to take a review of the situation relative to Highway 29, as the member has indicated. Certainly where highway safety is concerned, this government is out front, and has been. As I answered in a question the other day,

fatalities in this province for the first time in over 20 years have taken a significant downturn. It shows where our priorities are.

Mr. Speaker: We will now revert to leaders' questions.

1430

POLICIES ON ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Mr. B. Rae: A question to the Premier: I welcome the Premier back from the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair and say to him that he was apparently aware 10 days ago, according to what he has told the press, of a preliminary finding by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade panel with respect to the sale and distribution of wine and beer in Canada and the penetration of our markets by other countries. That is a fact he chose to conceal from the House last week when he had an opportunity to make it very clear that he understood what the ruling was.

There were meetings, we gather, on Friday at which Ontario was represented, and in fact Canada is presenting a position today at meetings with the European Community countries. I wonder if the Premier can tell us precisely what position Ontario has been taking in those discussions.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Ontario has not formally put forward a position to the federal government in that regard. There may well be some meetings—I have read about them as well—I gather in Europe with respect to this particular ruling. We are in the process of consulting very widely at the moment with the industries affected: the wine industry, the grape growers and the beer industry as well as the liquor industry.

As my honourable friend will know, this is potentially a very damaging ruling. I should tell him, though, that it is not a final ruling. As I understand them, the way the GATT rules operate is that, shall we say, a draft ruling or preliminary ruling is put forward. That is not published. That is not made public. It is only if there is a failure to negotiate a satisfactory settlement that there is a ruling. That is expected, barring some negotiation, in the November 25 and 26 area.

As my honourable friend will also know, it is a ruling against Canada and not against a particular province, even though we are involved in this, so there are serious constitutional questions involved in this. There are precedent questions as well as relationships not only with GATT but also with our sister provinces in that regard. We

are consulting widely. Nothing definitive has been put forward but I can tell my honourable friend there have been a substantial number of meetings with the industries affected over the last few days.

Mr. B. Rae: I do not think I heard an answer to my question. The government of Ontario has been at meetings. The Premier cannot deny the fact that meetings have been held with other provinces and with the government of Canada to put forward a common position. If one is going to negotiate, one has to have a position from which to negotiate. What is Ontario's negotiating position in the discussions that have taken place with the federal government? There must be some position that is being taken by the government of Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: As I said to my honourable friend, the answer to his question is not there at the moment. We are consulting very widely with the wine industry, the beer industry and others that are potentially affected. I think everyone understands the potential seriousness of this ruling. If he is asking me if a negotiating position is being put on the table as of this moment, the answer is no.

Mr. B. Rae: Can the Premier explain what kind of negotiated settlement can be possible if one of the parties representing the heart of the wine industry in this country, representing the heart of the grape-growing industry in this country, representing the most substantial brewing industry in this country—if he does not have a position, if the government of Ontario does not have a position going to the negotiating table, how can anyone expect people on the other side to take the government of Ontario, or indeed the government of Canada, seriously on this question?

I would like to ask the Premier precisely, what is the position of the government of Ontario with respect to the preliminary ruling he knew about 10 days ago and did not even have the courtesy to inform the House about when those very matters were being discussed, when he said it was a ruling that had not yet come down when he was personally aware of precisely what that preliminary ruling was?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I think my honourable friend is getting exercised. I have read his comments about it. I have read his reaction to the way we have handled this situation. I have also read his reaction that he feels we should fight, that we should not do anything in this particular regard, that we should disregard the rules of GATT and let the consequences be damned. I

understand his view in that situation but let me say that it is a far more complicated situation than that.

Obviously, there are negotiations that have to go on at two levels: number one, with the industry, other provinces and the federal government; number two, if there is a common position, that will be negotiated with GATT. As I tell my honourable friend, that has not been determined at the moment. If and when it is and if it is appropriate to share it with him, I will.

Mr. B. Rae: One would expect that when there is a basic industry with thousands of jobs at stake, the Premier of this province would be prepared to say that he is going to stand up and fight for those jobs and that this is going to be the position of the government of Ontario, instead of the wool he has put forward today.

TRADE WITH UNITED STATES

Mr. B. Rae: By way of second question to the Premier, the second round of bumf which has come out of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology with respect to free trade, which was deposited today in the House by the minister, contains this comment in the executive summary: "Therefore, adjustment programs must be flexible and wide-ranging, individualized according to need and circumstances. Adjustment assistance must address marketing, production, technology and skills training as well as assistance to dislocated workers."

Will the Premier not agree that the people of Ontario are getting a very mixed message from the minister? This is now the second statement he has made to the House indicating almost tacitly that an agreement is going to take place and that the question for Ontario is not whether to fight the free trade agreement but what kind of adjustment assistance to bring down. This is the second occasion on which the minister has done this. I wonder if the Premier can tell us what the position of the government of Ontario is. Has the government accepted the deal and is now talking about adjustment assistance or is the government going to move heaven and earth in order to see that this free trade agreement does not happen in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Unlike my honourable friend, I do not have a direct line to heaven in this regard, but let me say that we are completely against the deal. My honourable friend understands this. We are doing everything we can to assist in a detailed discussion of the effects of this particular deal as well as any potential ramifications that would come if it were implemented.

That being said, we are against it and we are doing what we can to persuade Canadians it is not in the national interest.

Mr. B. Rae: The Premier had better have a look at what his minister is saying. His minister is talking about adjustment assistance and the assistance that is going to be necessary when the deal comes through—and this is the second occasion on which that has happened—but apart from publishing reports, what is the Premier going to do to stop the deal?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I have said before and I will say again that ultimately the resolution of this question will be at a national level. It will be in a political forum and there will be an election on this issue some time in the not-too-distant future. The member has heard his national leader speak on this question, and the leader of the Liberal Party as well as the Prime Minister on this matter.

Treaty-making is within the purview of the federal government. That being said, all Canadians have a responsibility to put forward their views in whatever way they so choose. I would argue with my friend opposite that Ontario has put forward its position in a very thoughtful way, not just based on emotion and rhetoric and simple things like, "You have to fight, fight, fight," but on a very thoughtful analysis of the situation.

I believe that as this debate unfolds, more and more Canadians will become familiar with the reason Ontario took the position it did, and hopefully, when the resolution is taken at the federal level, they will agree with our point of view.

Mr. B. Rae: The professorial approach the Premier has taken today stands in quite remarkable contrast to, "That's my bottom line; I'm going to fight, fight, fight," which was the position he took during the election campaign. If it is good enough to win votes in an election campaign, why is it not good enough for the people of Ontario when he and the 95 members of his Red Army chorus have the ability to actually do something on behalf of the people of the province?

He has his mandate. Why does he not use it? Is the Premier not in fact saying that if there is no federal election, there is nothing he can do to stop the deal? Is that what he is admitting today?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: As I told my honourable friend, we are examining all the constitutional aspects of this deal, all the parts that would fall potentially under provincial jurisdiction. My honourable friend has referred in the past to the wine situation. I told him then that this was

further complicated by the potential GATT ruling as well as the potential 301 ruling.

The Attorney General (Mr. Scott) is looking at all aspects of the matter constitutionally, and we will share with the member any aspects we have if there are aspects exclusively under provincial control that could, as we say, end the deal. That answer is not apparent at the moment, but if my honourable friends have some ideas, then I would be delighted to hear them.

1440

POLICIES ON ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Mr. Brandt: My question as well is to the Premier. It is in regard to the General Agreement on Tariff and Trade ruling with respect to the wine and beer industry. Will the Premier clarify for us the position of his government relative to the recent comments of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Mr. Kwinter), where he has indicated that in fact Ontario may not abide by the GATT ruling?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I am happy to clear that up for the member. Both the minister and myself were asked innumerable questions by very thoughtful members of the press. One of the questions coming forward is, could Ontario not abide by this deal? I think that is a theoretical possibility and I want to put it in those terms; it is a theoretical possibility.

Obviously, one would have to contemplate the consequences of so doing, of turning our backs on GATT. Even though we may not agree with every ruling, particularly as it affects us, we have traditionally in the past respected that body and the rules it has put forward; Canada, after all, being an original signator. We have to figure out the consequences and relationships with the federal government, other provinces and our industries as well as with GATT; so there are many aspects to determine. I think, as I understand it, the minister shared the particular view that this is one of the potential options and the answer was given in that context.

Mr. Brandt: It is interesting to note that last year the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio) indicated that one of the options available in the dispute over softwood lumber would be a referral to either the US courts or to GATT as being an appropriate decision-making body. Is the Premier now saying that GATT is in effect not the appropriate decision-making body?

We know what his position is on free trade. He is opposed to it although he cannot do anything about it, apparently, from his response to the questions from the leader of the official opposi-

tion. But relative to GATT and in the context of whether that is the international tribunal he feels should make a decision in these matters: now that he has a decision he does not like, is he taking GATT off the table as a means of resolving disputes, as well as the free trade agreement?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Not at all, may I say to my honourable friend, but the other aspect one has to ask oneself in this discussion is whether that ruling violated any of our established constitutional precedents in this regard. As the member knows, it was a ruling against the national government but it affects areas of provincial jurisdiction. I am told that some other countries are concerned about this, other federal states such as Australia, Germany and others who have delegated certain areas of responsibility to their provinces. So the question that bears some examination, I say to my friend, is whether this judgement was legally flawed and whether it could be looked at from that point of view. That is one of the options the government is pursuing. I am very mindful of the legitimacy of GATT and it is something we generally support.

Mr. Brandt: In terms of the almost knee-jerk reaction, the kinds of responses we have seen come forward, and recognizing that for the last two or three years, certainly the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, the previous minister and the current minister, would have been aware that a GATT ruling was coming down and could very well be negative in terms of its impact on the Ontario industry, why would the government not anticipate that ruling and attempt to do something about it in advance instead of now indicating that GATT may have brought in a flawed decision? The Premier has done nothing.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: That is a typical line of questioning my honourable friend raises. Every time there is an earthquake, he will say, "Why did we not anticipate it?" If it were a tornado, he would say, "Why did we not anticipate it?" Maybe the member knew about it when he was the minister. Why did he not do something about it? I can tell my honourable friend that lots of people knew it was before a GATT panel. Everybody knew a decision was coming. I shared that in the House before. Nobody knew specifically the results of that, vis-à-vis wine and/or beer and/or distilled liquor. It is reasonable, I guess, for the member to say: "Why did you not prevent this? It is going to rain tomorrow. Why do you not do something about it?" But these things happen in life, as I am sure my friend knows.

Mr. Brandt: It is not much of an answer but I will try another subject.

RENT REGULATION

Mr. Brandt: The Premier indicated with respect to Bill 51, and I am going to try to quote him so that he will remember exactly what he said in regard to this matter, "This bill, Bill 51, is seen by thoughtful, moderate observers to be a solution that protects both sides, the landlord and the tenant." I would like to ask the Premier a very direct and simple question that has absolutely nothing to do with whether it is going to rain tomorrow or whether there is going to be an earthquake tomorrow. Is it possible for a landlord to receive a decision in regard to Bill 51 that in fact gives a higher settlement in terms of the rent that is allowable than what that landlord actually applied for?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: My friend must have some specific case in mind. If he wants to bring it to my attention, then I will investigate it. I cannot help the member with that particular question.

Mr. Jackson: Last week the minister was unwilling or unable to advise this House with specifics about whether or not whole building reviews have been applied for and have been approved by her ministry. Even though almost a year ago the Premier assured this House that this bill was going to be helpful to tenants, today he appears not to know the answer to the question if a landlord can get an increase greater than what he has applied for.

I have in my possession a confidential memorandum from the Ministry of Housing. It is dated October 19. It is signed by a Brigitte McConkey, a program assistant and addressed to Jim Parker, the director of the rent review services branch. The memorandum states very clearly, "Please find below documentation of all orders issued for the week of October 19 to October 23." The section 74 orders to be issued—those are whole building reviews—are contained in this document.

Mr. Speaker: The question is?

Mr. Jackson: The minister has advised this House that just because a landlord makes an application does not mean he is going to get that kind of an increase. In this document it clearly states that for a property at 66 Park Street in Brockville, the landlord has asked for a 26.5 per cent increase—

Mr. Speaker: Order; would you place your question.

Mr. Jackson: —and he was awarded a 29.5 per cent increase. How can tenants and landlords rely on this government for any degree of certainty given the fact that the Premier and the minister

seem to be unaware of the fact that a landlord can acquire a greater increase than he has even applied for?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I gather there is a question. It is tough to get the question out of this tag team they have sicked on me. The British Bulldogs, the Killer Bees, Jake the Snake—who is it over there? I know, Jake the Snake and Gorgeous George.

My friend has a specific question. I regret to tell him that I am not apprised of the particular incident he brings forward. If I can look into it and be helpful and get back to the member with the circumstances, then I will be happy to do so.

Mr. Jackson: These matters are being raised so someone might investigate what is going on in the Ministry of Housing. By virtue of this confidential memo, we have established that tenants could be paying higher increases than their landlords have requested. What is interesting is that in a random check with the landlords who are noted in this document, they have not been apprised of the increase, nor have their tenants. Yet this document was dated a month ago. The ministry has been sitting on these awards. They are not issuing them in any public fashion whatsoever. The minister has not been forthcoming in this House to direct questions about where the rent review program is going and how it is being administered.

How long will tenants have to wait until the Premier is able to resolve the problems that are associated with the administration of this program? When will we be getting some clear documentation that we can give to landlords and tenants so they can have some certainty about this bill?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: All right; there are some problems and I think the minister is addressing her mind to solving those problems with dispatch. I appreciate the member bringing that to our attention. As he knows, one of the problems of the bill—I gather he did not support that bill so he is against rent control and the leader of his tag team did support that particular bill. It did bring a lot more people under the rent review process and that indeed led to some of the backlog that developed. I can assure my friend the minister is working with her considerable talent to solve those problems and I expect we will be able to tell him shortly that there has been a resolution.

1450

TRUCKING INDUSTRY

Mr. Philip: I have a question for the Minister of Transportation. The minister is obviously

aware of the criticisms against Bill 150 by the people who are involved in the trucking industry in this province—the bill that he calls reregulation and everyone else calls deregulation. Maybe that accounts for why he did not answer my question last week concerning it. I wonder if he will answer it today.

Will the minister give a commitment to the House that the contents of Bill 150, which did not pass third reading in the last parliament, will not be reintroduced in any form in this House and thereby cause the loss of thousands of jobs in the trucking industry in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: I can only reiterate what I answered to the gentleman opposite last week. I have not introduced any legislation; therefore, I do not understand how I can be questioned upon it. His party was committed to oppose those bills long before they were introduced. Before seeing what was contained in them, they were “agin it,” and they voted in force against them in committee.

An hon. member: A negative group.

Hon. Mr. Fulton: A very negative group; thank you.

I answered the gentleman's questions last week. We are not about to savage that industry or any other industry. In fact, the opposite is true: based on the experiences that we have examined, total employment is in fact enhanced with those bills that were introduced last year.

Mr. Morin-Strom: The minister knows that the Ontario Trucking Association's position has changed quite remarkably on these bills as a result of the free trade agreement which has been signed by the federal government. They are now absolutely opposed to those bills, and I do not know why the minister cannot give the people of this province and the people in the trucking industry the assurance that he is going to stand up for their interests and assure them that we have better services in the trucking field in our province and that we will have more jobs, not fewer jobs; that we will be protecting that vital industry and that the service will be available in areas such as northern Ontario and some of the remote areas such as those that have lost services in the United States as a result of deregulation.

Will the minister give us the assurance that those bills are now dead and that if he is going to introduce reregulation, it will be something that will improve the services for this province and will provide more jobs, not fewer jobs?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: I appreciate that the member now understands it is reregulation or

regulatory reform, not deregulation, that took place. There is a very significant difference and some members opposite know that.

We have stated clearly from the very beginning of the process that we are very conscious of remote service, particularly in northern Ontario. It is our intention, and the assurance from the industries involved, both shippers and carriers, that they would not in any way decrease shipping in northern Ontario. That is one of the paramount goals this government and this ministry were attempting to achieve through those bills.

RENT REGULATION

Mr. Jackson: I have a question for the Minister of Housing. The minister listened to the previous exchange with the Premier (Mr. Peterson). My question simply is this: has she been apprised by her ministry staff that awards were coming in from the field offices for amounts greater than the landlord had applied for, and if so, when did the ministry apprise her of that fact?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: No, I have not been apprised by my ministry that awards were going to be coming in at a level higher than has been applied for.

Mr. Jackson: If I can ask the minister then—I am trying to establish the level of support the minister is getting from within her own ministry—has her ministry advised her that awards had been completed as early as the first two weeks of October? If her ministry advised her that these awards had been ready, at what point did she decide, or was it a ministry decision, not to advise landlords and tenants, because her ministry has been sitting on these for a month?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: The ministry is processing the information on rent review in an orderly fashion; not as timely as I would like, but orderly. It will be issuing the various decisions that have been made in due course.

I share with the member opposite his concern about the information coming as quickly as possible. I have already indicated to this House as clearly and forcefully as I can—and I am glad to do it again—that we will do this as quickly as it is possible for us to do it, and we will try to speed up the process with all the resources available at our disposal.

STEEL INDUSTRY

Mr. Morin-Strom: I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology about the potential impact of the free trade agreement on an industry which the free trade proponents claimed was going to be one of the

big winners in free trade; that is, the steel industry. Can the minister tell us whether this free trade agreement that has been negotiated will provide for the steel industry any exemptions from countervailing duty actions, antidumping actions or the voluntary restraint quotas on the steel industry which are currently in effect?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: The member will know that at the present time the steel industry has a gentleman's agreement with the United States whereby it will have 3.5 per cent of the market. In their appearances before my committee, they indicated they have no expectation that the market will increase, other than with the normal growth of the market, in which they have 3.5 per cent.

To answer the question as to whether or not they will have any jobs, they maintain they do not expect to get any, other than the normal increase, but it will protect them from being cut off. That is where we are.

Mr. Morin-Strom: If the steel industry is not going to be a winner, and in fact it has not declared that it is going to increase investment in the steel industry and has been unable to provide any assurances that more jobs will be coming in that industry, can the minister tell us which industries will be providing increased jobs and new investment in the Canadian economy as a result of this free trade agreement?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: I cannot really answer the question for the member, because we do not have that information. I can tell him that the perceived winners, every time they appear, whether it be the petrochemical industry, the steel industry or some aspect of the agricultural business, all maintain the same thing: they cannot identify any new markets. All they feel is that if they can get a free trade agreement, they can keep the markets they have.

DAIRY INDUSTRY

Mr. Sterling: Is the Minister of Agriculture and Food satisfied with the present free trade agreement as it affects our dairy farmers and the market supply system? If not, why not?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: There is a fairly quiet mood out in the farming community, with the exception of the grape growers and the wine industry, until such time as we have a chance to see the final legal text. The dairy farmers feel at the present time that there are sufficient safeguards in place to compensate for the removal of tariffs over a period of 10 years. Until such time as the agreement spells out whether certain products can be added to the import control list,

the dairy farmers really are not prepared, at this time, to say whether it is a good deal or not.

Mr. Sterling: I take from the minister's reply that he is, in general, in favour of the intention of the free trade agreement as it affects the dairy farming industry. I understand as well that yoghurt and ice-cream are going to be added to the protected list. Will this not put the dairy farmers in Ontario in a better position after a free trade agreement is signed than they were in before, if that follows through?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: I do not know how the honourable member could suggest that, because there are import controls and duties now in place for yoghurt and ice-cream. I think it is something in the neighbourhood of 12 and 15 per cent, respectively.

To suggest that I feel the deal is a good one for the dairy farmers is being a little unfair. I do not think I made that suggestion. I am just saying that until we all have a chance to see the final text, we do not know whether the safeguards that are being suggested are going to be effective.

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RENT REGULATION

Mr. Breagh: I have a question for the Minister of Housing. It concerns these orders for rent review issued for the week of October 19 to 23. The range of these orders is beginning to fall into a pattern of between 20 per cent and 30 per cent. Does her ministry consider that will be the norm for rent-review-approved increases for this year: between 20 per cent and 30 per cent?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: The vast majority of rent review orders are going to come in under the guideline at 4.7 per cent or less.

Mr. Breagh: I wonder whether the minister can explain how the lowest order in this week's decisions is nine per cent. How can she possibly explain that she will be anywhere near her guideline when the established pattern through orders already issued is clearly around the 20 per cent mark, some going as high as 30 per cent, and some giving the landlords more than they actually asked for? How does her ministry come to the position, then, that her guideline will mean anything to anyone except an increase for most tenants of between 20 per cent and 30 per cent, which is the pattern her ministry has established in the first public information we have received on the matter?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: The pattern of release of information has nothing to do with the overall numbers as they will come forward. All of the

work that was done by the people in the ministry indicates that the vast majority of increases in rent will be 4.7 per cent or less. The ones that are being referred to contain other issues than the basic support for maintaining a building adequately; including, presumably, with the ones that are being mentioned today, increased capital costs for repairs and maintenance. I think it is extremely important that it be possible for landlords to repair and maintain their buildings in order for tenants to live in appropriately maintained buildings.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: With the agreement of the House, could I introduce Mr. Podborski and his task force at this time?

Agreed to.

VISITORS

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: In the Speaker's gallery at this time, I would like to introduce Steve Podborski and the members of his task force—Marilyn Knox, Nancy Shosenberg, Dr. Stuart Robbins and Dr. Andrew Pipe—and thank them for their contribution to health promotion in Ontario.

PETITION

COURS DE FRANÇAIS

Mlle Martel: Je voudrais présenter une pétition signée par 58 membres du personnel du groupe parlementaire néo-démocrate. Ceux-ci voudraient exprimer leur mécontentement face à la décision du gouvernement de l'Ontario de réduire le nombre des cours de français qui leur sont offerts. Étant donné que ce même gouvernement a pris l'engagement d'étendre les services en français aux habitants de l'Ontario, ils sont profondément déçus par la réduction du nombre de places disponibles pour les membres du personnel pour apprendre la langue française. Je suis complètement d'accord avec eux.

MOTION

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS

Hon. Mr. Conway moved that, notwithstanding standing order 71, the House shall meet to consider government business on the morning of Thursday, November 19, 1987; that private members' public business shall not be considered until the morning of Thursday, November 26, 1987; and that the requirement for notice be waived for private members' ballot items 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Motion agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

RACE TRACKS TAX ACT

Hon. Mr. Grandmaître moved first reading of Bill 19, An Act to revise the Race Tracks Tax Act.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Grandmaître: The bill provides for new legislation to deal with the recent federally mandated expansion of the betting system and to reflect more closely the actual operating practices of the betting system. The bill provides for the imposition of tax on every person who places a bet in Ontario on the amount that he or she bets on a race in Ontario or elsewhere.

EMPLOYEE SHARE OWNERSHIP PLAN ACT

Hon. Mr. Grandmaître moved first reading of Bill 20, An Act to provide an Incentive to Ontario Employees of Small- and Medium-Sized Corporations to purchase Newly Issued Shares of their Employer Corporation.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Grandmaître: The bill introduces the employee share ownership plan, ESOP, proposed by the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) in the 1986 budget. The employee share ownership program will support investment by employees in their employer corporations. The program has two objectives: to promote and enhance an environment of co-operation and participation in the work place by employees and employers, and to provide a new source of equity capital for small- and medium-sized businesses in Ontario.

MINISTRY OF REVENUE AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Grandmaître moved first reading of Bill 21, An Act to amend the Ministry of Revenue Act.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Grandmaître: The amendments to the act would empower the Minister of Revenue to enter into reciprocal exchange-of-information agreements with governments in other jurisdictions for the better administration of statutes and trusts under his direction.

MOTOR VEHICLE REPAIR ACT

Hon. Mr. Wrye moved first reading of Bill 22, An Act to regulate Motor Vehicle Repairs.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I am pleased to reintroduce an important consumer protection initiative, the Motor Vehicle Repair Act. Since the bill was originally introduced in the spring of this year, we have added two provisions: first, that invoices be provided for warranty work done at no cost to the consumer; and second, that the original repairer be given, where practical, first opportunity to rectify any problem.

These and other measures contained in the bill should go a long way to addressing one of the major sources of consumer complaints.

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OTTAWA CIVIL SERVICE RECREATIONAL ASSOCIATION ACT

Mr. Chiarelli moved first reading of Bill Pr4, An Act respecting the Ottawa Civil Service Recreational Association.

Motion agreed to.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE (continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate having this opportunity to respond to the speech from the throne on behalf of my party. Before I get into my constructive remarks with respect to that particular document, I would like to offer you, sir, the congratulations of my party on your appointment as Speaker and give you our commitment that we will, as we have in the past, co-operate with the chair in every respect and in every regard, and we will take all of your rulings in a very serious manner, as we have tried to do in the past.

I would like, as well, to offer my congratulations to the newly appointed members of the executive council—the cabinet. I wish them well in their undertakings. I would like to wish them luck, but not too much in certain respects. I look forward to working with all the newly elected members of the Legislative Assembly, those who have come here into this historic place for the first time; and, of course, I would like to offer my congratulations to those who have been re-elected.

Mr. Speaker, before I begin my more formal remarks, I would also like to indicate my thanks to the leader of the official opposition (Mr. B. Rae) in regard to the kind comments he made in

his response to the speech from the throne. He did indicate to me, sir, that he would not be able to be in attendance today because of another commitment or he would have been here to listen to the remarks that I am going to offer in regard to the speech. As members will be aware, I was also unable to be in attendance during the course of his remarks, but I did take the opportunity to read them and I thought he made a very healthy contribution to some of the areas that could have been strengthened in the speech from the throne.

After having had the opportunity to look very carefully at the speech and to digest it quite thoroughly, I can offer nothing more than my feelings with respect to the speech being an agenda for inaction. Throughout the speech we have the government's intention to undertake more studies, more commissions—three select committees, as an example—the commissioning of reports and on and on ad infinitum with respect to more and more work that I believe is simply going to slow down the whole process of change and the entire process of strengthening the policies and the direction that we are hopefully going to undertake in Ontario.

I would say to some of the newly elected members of the Liberal Party and to the government party that this will undoubtedly be a very interesting make-work program for some of them.

I hope that the newly elected members, and particularly those who did not receive an appointment, will be active in committee and will let their voices be heard in regard to the work that we are going to undertake both in this House and in committee. I hope as well that the commissions, boards and committees that I spoke of earlier are not going to be simply a delaying tactic for inaction on the part of this government and I hope that we will be able to bring forward some positive change that I believe is very necessary in Ontario.

It is interesting to note that one of the initiatives brought forward by this government, which I had waited for with some degree of anticipation, related to the measures introduced by the government in regard to conflict of interest. I have to say with some degree of concern to the members opposite and to the government that although I am in support of the strengthening of conflict-of-interest legislation, I am not in support of the kind of direction and the thrust that is being proposed by the legislation that we are going to be dealing with in this House.

I say that because the new government is going to be introducing legislation, and with its majority will undoubtedly pass legislation, which will be the weakest conflict-of-interest laws in Canada. What those laws will do, very simply, is make legal those things that were fundamentally illegal in any previous conflict-of-interest legislation that was passed not only in Ontario—and any guidelines that we had in Ontario—but virtually anywhere else in the entire country.

It will allow a minister, for example, to retain certain holdings, vested interests in corporations and private ownerships that would not have been allowed previously. Just because this legislation calls for the public identification of the ownership of a particular interest that a minister might have, that should not set aside that minister's potential longer-term interest in the viability of that corporation or of that particular industry and what the financial impact may be on that minister on a personal basis.

It will allow certain ministers who would have had great discomfort, I might add, with the previous legislation, now to be able to sit very comfortably in cabinet without any problem whatsoever, because the new conflict-of-interest laws are being framed in a way that will simply allow them to be appointed to cabinet. I take issue with the framing of these particular laws in that fashion.

Who is going to be protected? Are we going to have additional protection for the people of Ontario? I would suggest to the members that we are not. There is nothing I can see in the new conflict-of-interest guidelines that are being proposed by the government that is going to give the people of Ontario more protection against a potential conflict that a minister might have. What we have, in effect, is a law which is not protecting the people of Ontario, but a law which will be protecting the interests of a few cabinet ministers who may have had some degree of difficulty with the previous legislation.

The greatest weakness, however, I see in this document, the throne speech, and the biggest shortcoming, if you will, Mr. Speaker, in this address to this House is the lack of vision that the government had in trying to put forward some form of agenda for action, some form of direction or focus on what the problems of Ontario are going to be, which I hope to identify in the course of my remarks, and to give us some belief that the government has the necessary resolve to take action on some of those problems.

This government has been very fortunate in that it took over in 1985, at a time when Ontario was coming out of one of the deepest recessions that we have had in two or three decades. It was a very debilitating period of time for those of us who were in government in the years immediately preceding 1985, primarily because the dollars obviously were not there and it is very difficult to govern when the economy is either showing a limited amount of growth or no growth.

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This government, however, had the opportunity to do a number of things which it did not do when it took over in 1985. I hope to return to some of the questions of fiscal integrity and economic planning that I feel this government has been very short in bringing forward during the course of the past two years. Certainly, it gives us no hope that it is going to take some measures to improve in the course of the next year or the years to follow.

The growth in this province over the course of the past couple of years has been driven in great part, and I think this is even an admission made by the members of the executive council on the other side, by the automotive sector of our economy. The fact is that we have had tremendous growth in automotive manufacturing and assembling in this province, the net result of which is that stimulus, that growth, has permeated right through the entire economy, has affected a number of other spinoff jobs and opportunities that developed as a direct result of that buoyancy in that particular sector.

What we have now found, however, is that anyone who is taking even a cursory look at the automotive sector, anyone who is even trying to anticipate how the future might unfold, sees very clearly that there is a very substantial overcapacity in the automotive sector. That overcapacity is estimated to be something on the order of three million units on the North American continent: three million units more than we are probably going to be able to sell; three million more units that can be produced than we are going to be able to market in any way, shape or form, by way either of domestic or export sales.

That concerns me; and it concerns me because this is a government which is driven by big spending, a government which had an opportunity during a time of a buoyant economy to do a number of things it did not do and which now may be looking at a period of time in the not-too-distant future when that economy may well slow down. I am not simply referring to the stock market collapse on Black Monday of a few

weeks ago; I am also looking at the prognostications, if you will, of those who are in the industry and those who are very close to the industry and who have indicated that the problem I am outlining for members today with respect to the automotive sector is a very real problem and one that this government should take some action on.

Where is the response of this government? In a question I raised with the Premier (Mr. Peterson) today in regard to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade decision, he said that I was asking the government to respond to a future earthquake or to a future rainstorm, if I can quote him properly. That is not what I am asking for at all. What I ask for, and what the members of my party feel is appropriate, in regard to the automotive sector and to the economy generally, is that the Premier attempt at least to look at what is going to happen in the future, attempt to look at the world competition and make some judgments with respect to what actions he has to take based on the facts and figures he has before him.

I have to tell members we may be in for a rocky road indeed in connection with this particular sector if all of the predictions come to pass. Where is the economic blueprint in the throne speech to respond to those kinds of problems? Where are the job creation programs? We have a Minister of Skills Development (Mr. Curling) now who is going to be looking certainly at ways of retraining in certain sectors of the economy, but I see this as being far too little and far too late in regard to a great many activities in this province. I would hope that the ministers would look at this much more seriously than they have in the past.

Let me talk for a moment about managing the economy. I indicated earlier that I would come back to this point. I think it is a point that bears looking at in regard to what this government has done economically in the course of the past two years. They have gotten away with it to a certain extent; I recognize that in terms of the number of members who were elected. But I say to this government that the next couple of years may not be quite as easy as the last two years, in terms of managing the economy of Ontario.

We are presently saddled with a debt of about \$1 billion. It is interesting, and my colleagues are aware of this, that the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) brought forward a budget estimate of \$970 million. We all know full well that he grabbed at that figure because it was comfortably below that psychological breaking-point of \$1 billion. But in order to reach the \$1 billion, if I

can round the number, what he did was, he fudged the books.

How he was able to accomplish that, very simply, was that he indicated to the various ministers of the crown that they were to bring forward \$350 million in end-year cuts. As a result of that, that reduction of \$350 million would arrive at a total deficit of \$970 million.

All of that sounds all well and good, except for one thing. The Treasurer, in the history of this province since he has taken over that very high-profile portfolio, has never been able to bring in a budget on target yet. If he erred on the downside, if he spent less than he was suggesting to this House that he was going to spend, then perhaps I would have some additional degree of confidence in the figures he has given to us. The problem is that with regard to the Treasurer's performance over the course of the past couple of years, he has always come in erring on the side of having spent more than he has anticipated.

That causes us great consternation on this side of the House, because as the ministers who are in the House well know, this is a government that has had a prolific spending record over the past couple of years, a spending record virtually unmatched in the history of this province in terms of increased expenditures.

What has the government done with the money it has received? It has not all gone to areas that we do not feel are an appropriate or a sound or a needed investment in Ontario. I see that government members are sitting there in great anticipation, waiting for me to tell them what those areas might be. As an example, the investment in the expansion of a hospital in London or Sarnia, or many other places I could think of, is the kind of investment and expenditure on the part of the government that we applaud.

The sort of thing that causes us some justifiable concern is when the government goes out and starts to hire new civil servants, without really showing any net benefit to the people of Ontario. We have to bring forward for the government's attention the fact that those additional civil servants, that bloated bureaucracy which it is now becoming very much a part of—

An hon. member: They speak very highly of you, Andy.

Mr. Brandt: As well they should, because I gave them a great deal of opportunity to work very hard when they worked for me as a minister. However, I did not promise them additional colleagues to sit alongside them while they were contemplating their day's activities. I appreciate the fact that the minister says the bureaucrats had

a great deal of confidence in me, and I have a great deal of confidence in the bureaucracy in Ontario, most of whose members, I might add, this government has retained, even though Liberals used to be highly critical of them when they were on this side of the House. But they have kept most of them. Most of the deputy ministers, most of those fine people who were trained by the former government, are still in place and doing an excellent job.

Mr. Villeneuve: That is about the only thing that is keeping you afloat.

Mr. Brandt: That is right. My colleague says it is about the only thing that is keeping the government afloat over there, the expertise that we have been able to transfer its way and to provide for it by way of well experienced personnel who are there to prop it up and support it.

What causes us some real concern—and I say this to the government very seriously—is the additional personnel it has taken on staff and, in the longer term, what the implications are for Ontario when it hires that many additional staff.

The 5,000 additional people were certainly needed in some areas of the government, but they were not needed in the Ministry of Housing, as an example, where three times the number of bureaucrats are now in the rent review area and have yet to bring in one decision. All of that time they have been sitting there—I imagine shuffling paper or doing whatever those people do to keep busy at those kinds of things that are involved in the activities of the Ministry of Housing—and there are no results showing. There is nothing coming out of the other end of the system, except for some outlandish increases that are being proposed for some of the tenants in this province.

1530

What is the cost to the people of Ontario? In addition to simply slowing down certain programs and not getting any results from them, the cost is about a quarter of a billion dollars a year.

What could they do with that quarter of a billion dollars if they did not spend it on hiring new people? Well, my colleague spoke today of Highway 29, which is badly in need of reconstruction. That highway could have been built many times over for that \$250 million. There are hospitals across this province, there are schools, there are all kinds of programs that are desperately in need of the attention of this government. But what did they do? They took the money, which is going to amount to \$1 billion during the course of this government over the next four years, and they squandered it needlessly on increasing staff.

I think that is wrong, and my colleagues and I feel very strongly about that particular point.

Let me say, while I am making these constructive remarks—

An hon. member: Which constructive remarks have you made?

Mr. Brandt: There will be some if you listen carefully, but you have to listen carefully.

Let me say that we see our role as members of the opposition bringing to the attention of the government those areas where the government perhaps has had some modest degree of shortfall; where perhaps it is bringing forward legislation that requires strengthening; where perhaps the government has not thought through a particular program in an adequate and appropriate fashion.

We see ourselves, as members of the opposition, not attacking personalities, which we will refrain from doing, but attacking issues on which we feel the government has not provided the kind of leadership that we feel this province is in need of.

Now, we all recognize the realities of the decision that was made by the people of Ontario on September 10. Those realities indicate that we now have a majority government and they can do literally what they want. They literally can bring forward virtually what they want and they can have it passed because they have the numbers over there. But our role as opposition members is, in a very responsible and, I hope, in a very civil and effective way, to add to whatever the government is going to do the voice of people who also voted. I might add that more than half of the people of this province voted against those folks over there, more than half of the people, even though they ended up with three times as many seats as the opposition members have. Those are some of the problems that develop in our democratic system here.

But, I say to the members opposite, the reality is—and we recognize those realities—that they have 95 members and they can virtually force through any legislation that they feel strongly about. But it is also—and I ask them to respect this reality of September 10—that there were 19 New Democrats elected and there were 16 members of my party elected. As 35 members of the opposition—

Mr. D. S. Cooke: You still won't say your party; you wouldn't on your lawn signs and you won't say now your party.

Mr. Reville: What is it?

Mr. Brandt: Is there some confusion as to—

Hon. Mr. Elston: Are you a socialist?

Mr. Brandt: No, I am not a socialist. I do not mind making that abundantly clear to the former Minister of Health and now Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Mr. Elston).

To get back on topic, if I can for a moment, what I wanted to indicate is that the 35 of us also have a very real responsibility in this particular forum. That responsibility is obviously to be constructive in regard to the things which the government wishes to carry out, to be constructive in terms of what we can add to the debates in this House and to committee and to the work that we are to carry out as legislators.

We would ask the government, in spite of the fact that they have a very substantial majority, to listen to the views of the opposition on occasion. The reality is that they will find that on occasion the opposition has some ideas that are worth while considering.

I am pleased to see the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley) is taking his chair, because I am about to say some words on the environment and I was saving those for him.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: Is this a deathbed confession?

Mr. Brandt: No. It may well be for you, though.

Our opposition will be based, perhaps somewhat unlike that of the members of the official opposition, on sound fiscal management, on the reduction of the deficit, on a belief in the rights and responsibilities of the individuals in our society, but more particularly on the limited role of government intervention in society.

We see this as being an interventionist government, a government that intervenes in virtually every walk of life, a government that believes it can throw new laws and new money at a problem and that it will automatically correct itself. That is not the philosophy of my party. That is not the philosophy which I espouse as a member of the Progressive Conservative Party. It is, in fact, a philosophy which we believe is supported by a great many people, if not the majority of people, in Ontario.

I want to say to the members opposite, and to the members of the executive council in particular, we will not oppose simply for the sake of opposing. The members will find, perhaps only on limited occasions, that we will support the government in some of its initiatives, and we will attempt to be responsible as we fulfil our role in representing, between the two parties on this side of the House, well over 50 per cent of the people

of Ontario who did not vote for the current government.

In the days and weeks ahead we will be focusing on a number of key issues that we feel are of importance to our party and certainly to the people of this province.

Housing is one of the issues that we have been talking about a great deal. I want to say a few words on that today and on the issue of the environment. We feel that there are, perhaps, some very positive comments we can make in regard to education, which I want to discuss a little later.

I have touched very briefly on fiscal management, but I would like to elaborate on that, as well as on the issues of agriculture, the trade agreement, health, job creation and a number of other issues that I perhaps may not have time to get into this afternoon but are of importance to the members of my party.

We have some real concerns, I say to the former Minister of Housing, the member for Scarborough North (Mr. Curling), whom I am pleased to see in the House today, in regard to the direction that the government is taking in the field of housing. I wish that the minister herself was here because the former minister, I know, had his heart in the right place; the only difficulty was that the programs did not work.

It appears in this throne speech all we have is a repetition of the same kinds of programs that did not work, which will ultimately result in a net shortfall in the housing requirements of the people of Ontario.

As an example, I say to the former Minister of Housing, the government promised, during the course of the last election, some 102,000 housing units within a two-year period. I was quite prepared, and I indicated this in a question that I raised with the Premier a week or so ago, to allow for the expansion to the third year, which appeared to be an amendment to that campaign promise to three years. We are not fighting over the fact that it may take three years to develop the 102,000 housing units.

The numbers are not of that much importance other than, even with the very ambitious projections that were brought forward by the former government's ministry officials and by the current minister, it would appear that there is going to be a need for 130,000 housing units in Ontario between now and the year 1990, just to keep up with the demand.

Hon. Mr. Curling: And gross neglect too.

Mr. Brandt: The former minister says it was gross neglect; the interesting part of that com-

ment is that we are falling further and further behind.

The former minister can criticize, as he does very frequently, the programs of the previous government, but we had housing in better shape than this government. The housing programs that we had in place during the years that this government sat on the opposite side of the House—

Mr. Harris: During a depression.

Mr. Brandt: My colleague reminds me it was during the depression years, but we did not have the numbers of people who are living on the streets, and we did not have the numbers of people who are living in accommodations which are either unaffordable or certainly do not meet the needs of a great many citizens in Ontario. We did not have the kinds of high rents as a result of the new rent review legislation that the former minister brought in.

Hon. Mr. Curling: You voted for it.

Mr. Brandt: It is his legislation. Does he take responsibility for anything? He says we voted for it. Some members of my party did vote for it, but the reality is that he was the minister and it was his legislation that was brought forward. Now he finds out that legislation is not working, and it is not working to the extent that in the next couple of years—

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Mr. Harris: He told us it was going to work; he misled us.

Mr. Brandt: That is right—

Mr. Harris: He confused us as well, and we trusted him.

Mr. Brandt: We trusted him, and he confused us and caused us to support something which is not working anywhere near the extent the minister proposed it would.

Let me tell him what is going to happen, though. I know the member is no longer responsible; he got out of there while the getting was good. Over the course of the next couple of years, we are going to have 100,000 additional people in Ontario who are going to be without accommodation. How can that government stand before the Speaker of this House and before the people of this province and say it has a good grip on the housing problems in this province? It simply does not have.

The problem is going to accelerate and become more aggravated, believe me, in the weeks and months ahead. The government is quickly losing the confidence of the private sector: they are simply not building. The takeup on the Renter-

prise program was negligible because the private sector did not believe the government was going to give it any opportunity to realize a decent profit on its investment.

Second, the government is going to lose the confidence of the tenants in this province. When they, as the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breagh) indicated, see the rent review decisions coming down in the 20 to 30 per cent range in terms of the levels of increases that are deemed to be appropriate by the board, I think a great number of people are going to lose confidence in the direction that has been taken by this government as it relates to housing. It is a critical issue.

We do not blame the new minister for this problem; we blame the former minister. We have to lay some of the fault on the shoulders of the former minister, as likeable an individual as he may be. I happen to have great personal respect for the former minister, on a direct basis, but I have to tell him his policies were flawed, and those flawed policies are now going to cause great concern and great problems in Ontario as a direct result of some of the things I have been pointing out to the members.

Obviously, this was part of the decision-making responsibility of the former minister. How could he allow for the enlargement of the bureaucracy in his ministry, one of the fastest-growing ministries in the entire government in terms of new staff, and have all of those people in place only to end up with the result that nobody makes a decision? We still have not got any decisions coming out of that group. We have the absolutely ridiculous situation where tenants do not know what their increases are going to be, where landlords do not know what their increases are going to be, and they are going to find themselves in a position where it will take a mathematician or a genius in higher algebra to figure out exactly what it is that a tenant is going to have to pay.

When the retroactivity clauses come into effect with respect to some of these settlements that are going to be made by the rent review board, there will be great concern among the tenants of the province, great concern because not only will they be getting a 10, 20 or 30 per cent increase—not the 4.7 guideline the government advertised at great expense in the newspapers over the course of the past couple of weeks. That 4.7 per cent is a phantom number as far as most people who are tenants in this province are concerned. What they are going to get is an increase that is double, triple or quadruple that level, and they are going to have to pay that

increase retroactively. When the impact of that strikes, there are going to be some very real problems in this province. What the implications are going to be for the social ministries, I have no idea, but people will simply not be able to afford accommodation in this province based on the new rules and the new guidelines.

I indicated that I wanted to speak briefly about the environment, and I want to be constructive with respect to environmental issues. I served for two years in that particular ministry, enjoyed it immensely, and I wish the minister well, because if there is one issue that I have said on many occasions is not a partisan issue—it is an issue upon which most of us can agree—it is matters of environmental concern. Everybody on all sides of the House wants to see an improved environment.

I for one know that it cannot be done overnight. I recognize the complications; I recognize the challenges of that ministry; and I say to the minister that the comments I am going to make in regard to perhaps some of the directions he is taking are meant to be constructive and healthy, rather than destructive and simply trying to point out the shortcomings of the ministry. But there seems to be a mindset, if you will, in the ministry at the moment that does cause me some concern.

That mindset is almost similar to or very close to the attitude of the Ministry of Housing as it relates to increasing personnel, on one hand, as opposed to putting that selfsame amount of money into some of the hard services in the environmental abatement programs that are so badly needed.

The minister has acknowledged that he is going to be hiring more inspectors. Well, there are a limited number of people in this province—and, I might add, I do not include a great number of industries in this category—but there are some people in this province who are engaged in environmental criminal activity, and they should be charged and should be brought forward for the kind of degradation that they are perpetrating on the environment.

I agree with the minister's taking action on those kinds of activities. I did it when I was the minister; I think it is totally appropriate. What I do not agree with, however, is where the emphasis seems to be on policing rather than on correcting some of the problems that the minister and I know are out there—some of the problems that have been in existence for a long time and will be in existence for a long time in the future as well, on which he could be taking some action.

Let me mention a few areas that I think are of concern to me and probably of concern to the minister as well.

In the area of municipal sewers and sewage treatment plants, the minister, without having a police force out there, knows full well—and the documentation with respect to the discharges and the quality of the effluent that is being discharged by many of our municipal treatment plants is well known to him. He has studies that he can draw forward which will give him all the evidence he needs as to what kind of remedial or corrective action is necessary.

What is missing, I say to the minister, is any kind of co-operative program on the part of the province to put more money in and to assist the municipalities in carrying out the responsibilities that he has given to them. They simply cannot do the job alone.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: We put far more money into it in the past year. We changed the formula.

Mr. Brandt: The minister is putting a small amount of money into those programs relative to the overall need and he knows it. On a number of occasions, the minister knows full well, when applications for assistance have come before him, the response has been, "If we could only get the federal government to help us, we'd be able to move forward with some of those programs." Historically, the minister knows full well, the federal government was not a participant in those kinds of programs other than in a very limited degree. One example would be the sewage treatment plant in the Niagara area.

I say to the minister that in terms of making a judgement call on that particular issue, I would put more money into the hard services that I feel are so essential to this province and that will do so much more to correct environmental shortcomings we may have than simply adding more personnel to the Ministry of the Environment and adding to the police force, if you will. I do not believe that is going to be sufficient.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: But you are not getting to the source of the problem.

Mr. Brandt: The minister says you do not get at the source by doing that, and I would assume the minister is talking about industrial discharges.

Many of the industrial discharges, as he well knows—he can do sporadic checks on those industries to determine whether or not their discharges meet the quality levels required by his ministry. He knows full well that new technology is coming forward; we are at the brink of it right today. Constant monitoring of all discharges of

industrial effluent into water courses is a technology which is virtually available right at this particular time, and I might add, technology that was developed in my riding in industries with which the minister has worked. He knows full well there are ways of reducing the requirement for manpower, relying on the technology that is available today, in order to give us the kind of information we need to undertake the kind of remedial programs that are required.

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I will leave aside for a moment the separation of sewers, which is a massive, multibillion-dollar program, and the improvements in sewage treatment plants, because I see an even more crushing problem coming down around the minister's shoulders very quickly. That is the problem of municipal landfill sites, as a result of bringing in additional control measures relating to municipal landfill sites, to which I take no exception. With respect to the engineering requirements, the site selection process and the environmental reviews that are needed today, I am in concert with the minister on these and I believe they are necessary.

On the other hand, the minister has not provided any additional dollars for that program, or very limited. The minister has to acknowledge that, when I talk about no additional dollars, if he is providing a fraction of a per cent of what the total program is going to cost, that is not sufficient in terms of the needs of municipalities, but the catch 22—

Hon. Mr. Bradley: We have quadrupled the recycling money.

Mr. Brandt: I introduced that program. I know what the minister has done with recycling and I applaud that as well. It is still not enough, but the minister is moving in the right direction.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: You just said you wanted to balance the budget.

Mr. Brandt: I would balance the budget by not hiring the 5,000 people I talked about and saving the \$250 million, which I would put into environmental control programs.

I want to talk about municipal landfill sites because I truly believe—and this was not in any way identified in the throne speech as a matter of major concern or an undertaking that the government appeared to have any apprehensions about—it is a matter of very critical concern to a great number of municipalities. What is happening in regard to municipal landfill sites is that a very large number of them are at the point of

exhaustion in terms of their capacity to accept additional garbage.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: I wonder how that happened.

Mr. Brandt: The minister would blame it on the previous government. He has been over there for two years now. He cannot blame everything on the previous government. He has been around for a couple of years. It is his job to solve these problems, not leave them all to the previous government.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: They are problems that you created.

Mr. Brandt: If the minister wants to change seats, we will solve the problem. We solved the problem a lot better than he did on a number of these issues.

When the minister talks about the problems of incinerators, which were identified in the newspaper recently, I fully appreciate that the technology of municipal incinerators leaves a great deal to be desired. At the moment the minister does not have air emission standards which can appropriately monitor those incinerators or determine a safe level of operation, because of the potential for dioxins, dibenzofurans and other toxics that are discharged from those incinerators.

I appreciate all those problems, but when he places a municipality in the position where it has a landfill site which is very quickly going to run out of space in terms of being able to take any additional garbage, when he does not allow it to use an incinerator and when he gives it a very elaborate process to go through for approval for a new site, the municipality is placed in an absolutely impossible position. There is no answer to the problem, unless municipalities get some additional help—part of it is money—from the minister either to streamline the process—

Hon. Mr. Bradley: Do you mean we should hire more staff so we can streamline the process?

Mr. Brandt: No. The government hired additional staff in the Ministry of Housing and it did not streamline the process. What the minister has done is encumber the process.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: Do you want more people to streamline the process?

Mr. Brandt: That is not what I am saying at all.

One of the responses that the minister has come up with in regard to the question of landfill sites is that he has increased the amount of money—this is the throwing of money at a problem, which I referred to earlier in my

remarks—that has gone into recycling programs. By quadrupling the money—I believe that was the number the minister used in terms of his commitment to recycling—what he is going to do is get recycling in Ontario maybe up to one or two per cent of the total volume of solid waste that is now going into landfill sites. He is such a long way away from being really able to use recycling as a method of reducing the volume of waste that goes into these landfill sites that it will be years before any real impact is felt by the municipalities.

If one goes down the litany of what is available, the municipalities cannot go to incineration; they cannot get approval for a new landfill site; they cannot go to recycling, because they simply cannot reduce the waste sufficiently through recycling. The costs have increased very substantially, from five to 10 times the amount in many municipal budgets just to look after the garbage that is being disposed of by the average householder in this province.

All of these things have resulted very directly in a situation in which the minister sits back very glibly and says, "Well, let the municipalities figure out the solution to the problem themselves." I have to tell him that the municipalities do not have the wherewithal; they do not have the capacity, financially or otherwise, to be able to move towards a solution to this very real problem. The largest municipality in the entire province, namely, Metro Toronto, is caught on the very issue that I am trying to share in a constructive way with the minister at the moment.

I do not believe he fully appreciates the level of apprehension of municipal leaders when you go to talk to them about this problem, because not only are they faced with huge increases in cost but they are faced with environmental demands that in some instances are virtually beyond their reach. The minister says: "Well, that is your problem. We want to have a better environment." I agree. We all want a better environment, but we also have to have the means by which we can dispose of our garbage.

I see the member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. D. S. Cooke) here. He has on many occasions raised the question of the Detroit incinerator, which is presently being constructed and about which the minister has stood up, quite appropriately, and said, "I am going to fight the Detroit incinerator because it does not have adequate control of the dioxins and furans that will be coming from that particular facility."

By the same token and at the selfsame time, the minister allows certain incinerators to operate in Ontario, which appears to be some kind of double standard. How can he argue with our neighbours and friends, the people of Detroit in the state of Michigan, that their incinerator is not going to be adequate while we have other incinerators—

Hon. Mr. Bradley: We are talking about new incinerators in the province. You know we demand the best available technology on all new incinerators.

Mr. Brandt: Oh, he says it is an old incinerator; therefore, it is OK.

Whether octachlorodioxins are coming from an old or a new incinerator, they are a known carcinogenic, and the reality is, whether it is an old or a new incinerator, the environmental impact is exactly the same.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: On all new incinerators, this province must have state-of-the-art technology, and you know it. If you want to support Coleman Young, go ahead.

Mr. Brandt: Now we take a leap in logic, and the leap in logic is that I am now supporting the installation of an incinerator in Detroit proposed by Mayor Coleman Young. The reality is that there are a few things that I support in Detroit. One of them happens to be a very well known baseball team. Beyond that, I do not take exception to the opposition the minister has put forward in regard to the incinerator that is being constructed in the city of Detroit. What I take exception to is the double standard established by the minister when he says: "It is not okay for Detroit to do it, but it is okay for Toronto to do it. We are going to incinerate the garbage here, but don't you incinerate the garbage over there." That is a double standard and he knows it, and he ought to be embarrassed by it.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: If Toronto built a new incinerator tomorrow, it would have to put on state-of-the-art technology, the same as we are asking Detroit.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Brandt: Let me simply repeat that the emissions of octachlorodioxins and dibenzofurans, which the minister is well aware are emitted from the stacks of incinerators, whether they be industrial or municipal, are a known carcinogenic. Until the minister establishes air emission guidelines which indicate that there are safe levels for some of those toxic materials, he cannot take a position that is anything other than hypocritical with the city of Detroit while he is

allowing incinerators to operate in his own jurisdiction. He cannot have it both ways. The minister wants it both ways on landfill sites and on other environmental issues as well. I ask him simply to look at that.

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Hon. Mr. Bradley: All we are asking is state-of-the-art technology, as we would apply it in Toronto.

Mr. Brandt: I can see the minister is very sensitive about environmental problems, as well he should be, but I want to touch very briefly on what I feel is another initiative that the minister should take. Again, I say this to him in the constructive spirit of all the comments I have made this afternoon. I hope the minister will take some action in regard to the need for scrubbers with respect to the acid rain emissions or the sulphur dioxide emissions from Ontario Hydro.

The minister knows full well that the technology, which was not available and was not sufficiently advanced two or three years ago during the period of time of the former government, has now been brought forward in a much more effective way and has proved to be one of the answers to reducing the emissions of SO₂ in our environment.

I ask the minister to move that program along. He will get the support of my colleagues on this side of the House when he takes some initiatives to get government emissions of sulphur dioxide reduced, as he is trying to do with Inco, Falconbridge and other private industries.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: It applies to Hydro too.

Mr. Brandt: It applies to Hydro as well. I fully recognize that. I am simply saying the minister can accelerate the process and make it much more effective much more quickly if he brings in scrubbers or lower-sulphur coal from the western parts of Canada. Those things will all be a substantial improvement over the present situation we are faced with.

Moving off environment, which I am very reluctant to do because the minister and I had an opportunity to exchange some healthy discussion related to our respective views on this particular question, I want to touch for a few brief moments on the concerns my party has in the whole field of education. If there is an area of the throne speech that was not appropriately addressed where we feel that this government has certainly short-changed the people of Ontario, it is with respect to any kind of a directed, focused program as it relates to educational policy in this province.

It is interesting to note how many of the election campaign promises are now falling by the wayside, even those that were made back in 1985, let alone those that were made in 1987. I recall in 1985 where one of the principal thrusts, one of the key measures, one of the campaign platforms of the government of today was that it would without any question raise provincial participation in educational financing to 60 per cent. There was no question whatever that is what they had intended to do: but what are the facts?

The facts are that educational funding had fallen from 60 per cent to about 48 per cent before the government took over in 1985. Then all my colleagues and I, when we recognized the tremendous windfall of new dollars that this government received in transfer grants from the federal government and in new revenues from an economy that was showing a degree of buoyancy and growth that perhaps had not been realized by the previous government—all of a sudden those new revenues came pouring in—knew full well that one of the first initiatives of this government was going to be to increase the level of provincial participation in educational funding. Boy, were we misled, because that did not happen.

Do members know what did happen? The former minister is in the House and he knows. He knows the release of the report indicating what the level of provincial participation was supposed to be has been rather late in being brought to the attention of the members of this Legislature. It should have been brought out and should have been released prior to the election campaign. It is interesting that there are some guesstimates being given now to all of us in regard to the current level of funding of education in this province.

Those estimates are being provided by the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation. They have indicated that, on the basis of the preliminary figures that they have received, not only did the funding fall from 60 per cent to 48 per cent when the government took over, but it has fallen further, from 48 per cent to 44 per cent, and in all probability has gone down another two per cent over the course of the past year.

The minister takes issue with that and says I am probably wrong, but where is the report? Why are we not getting a report which will indicate to us what the true figures are? Where is the Minister of Education (Mr. Ward) when we need him? I cannot entirely fault the former minister.

The reality is that it is all well and good to come out with nice, glossy press releases and with all kinds of reports with respect to the initiatives that this government is going to take on the education front when we know all too well that one of the key platforms—namely, that of returning provincial funding to 60 per cent—is now a rather moot point with the current government. They do not even talk about it any more. It is just not a matter that is high up on the agenda, and certainly it was not mentioned in the throne speech.

What we have heard about is that they are going to do a couple of things in terms of education. Hundreds of thousands of computers will now be made available to the students of the province. In addition, they are going to reduce class sizes in grades 1 and 2 from 30 to 20 pupils, on average. We applaud that initiative, but we ask a question.

[Applause]

Mr. Brandt: We are not applauding that loudly, because we have a question that is associated with that initiative. At the selfsame time that they propose to reduce class sizes in grades 1 and 2, and with all of the attendant capital expenditures that are required to go along with that initiative and all of the additional costs for teachers—I believe some 4,000 new teachers will be required for that initiative as well—how can they make those comments, knowing full well their government over the past two years has brought forward policies which have resulted in the number of students in portables going from 110,000 to 150,000?

It is absolutely totally unacceptable to our party that they would allow 150,000 students in this province to be taught in portable classrooms at the selfsame time that they are talking about reducing class sizes in grades 1 and 2. Do they not realize that there is going to be a capital requirement for grades 1 and 2? When they reduce the class sizes and when they increase the number of teachers who will be involved with those particular students, they are going to require some capital expansion. I ask the government, why would it not address the immediate needs of trying to reduce the numbers of portables?

I can recall the members of the current government, when they were in opposition, talking about the dastardly deeds that were being committed by the previous government when it did not recognize how inappropriate it was, in this day and age, in the richest province in Canada and with the kind of resources that we

could bring forward on issues of this kind: how could we allow 110,000 pupils to be taught in portable classrooms?

I raise the question with this government. If it was wrong to teach 110,000 students in portables in 1985, then it is even more wrong, more serious, more critical to be teaching 150,000 students in portables in 1987, and that is what they are doing.

The other concern I have in regard to what the government is doing, relative to education funding in particular, is that for all of the platitudes, for all of the pious phrases and for all of the quasi-commitments that come out of the government relative to education, the reality is that it is reducing the funding as a percentage of the provincial budget. It is going down. Other areas of the budget are going up, obviously, but education is not the priority this government said it was going to be. Education is not getting its fair share of funding in Ontario from this government. It is a category, an area, a ministry of the government, if you will, that is receiving less attention than was previously the case.

I urge the government, because it certainly did not bring forward this kind of commitment in the throne speech, to bring forward programs to properly support the financial requirements of the educational system.

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I would like to speak for a few moments about the question of fiscal management and the economy. I have some very real concerns about the management of the provincial economy by the current government; again, I make my comments in a constructive way.

Ontario, as we well know, depends on trade for its survival. The reality is that two out of every five jobs in this province depend on export and the reality is that 90 per cent of our exports go to the United States. Now, we enter into dialogue virtually daily in this House on the merits or the lack of merits of any kind of trade agreement with the United States. I respect the views of the official opposition in regard to its being opposed to a trade agreement, as I would hope it would respect our position in being in favour of a trade agreement. The one position we have never been able to figure out is the position of the government because the government goes around with its press releases, with its studies it has released and with the comments it makes to the media virtually on a daily basis, indicating it has some opposition to a trade agreement but not indicating what it is the government proposes to do about it.

They want the best of both worlds. They really want to find some way to remain straddled on the picket fence for as long as they possibly can, thinking that this kind of inaction, this lack of a definitive decision on the part of the government, will appease most of the people of Ontario. I have to tell the government that I believe this lack of action, this lack of a decision, will ultimately cost those 95 members and this government very dearly in the time ahead.

Again, we look at what this government wants in terms of future trade and the expansion of that trade, which I believe is so vitally important and is such a critical matter to Ontario. The government on the one hand said it was in favour of decisions brought down by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. That was the position of the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio) when we talked about softwood lumber about a year ago. He indicated at that time that GATT would be the appropriate tribunal, and if not GATT, then the US court system would be the mechanism that would be used to resolve our trade differences.

Then on the first decision that is brought down by GATT that the government disagrees with, now the government is indicating, at least through the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Mr. Kwinter), somewhat clarified today by the Premier and modifying the position somewhat—but the initial position of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology was that they would simply ignore the GATT ruling.

That is an absolute absurdity. How can you ignore the GATT ruling without bringing upon yourself all of the retaliatory powers of our trading partners who have taken this action and brought it before the GATT tribunal for a decision? What other areas of the economy is the government throwing to the wolves as a result of attempting, quite properly, to protect the wine industry and the beer industry? What other sectors of the economy are going to be hurt and how many jobs are going to be lost as a result of that?

I have to tell the government that there is no status quo on this issue, as there is no status quo on the trade issue. You are either going to get free trade, you are going to get protectionism or you are going to get some kind of retaliation somewhere from someone. You can bet on it because that is what world trade is all about.

Mr. McGuigan: So the grape growers do not matter; throw them to the wolves.

Mr. Brandt: I did not say that. There is that quantum leap in Liberal logic again when you

talk about a mechanism that has resolved a dispute in a certain fashion. What the member is saying is that it is, "Throw the grape growers to the wolves," and that we have no sensitivity towards their plight, no concern about their welfare.

The member is wrong. We are concerned about that, only we would have taken some action maybe a year or two years ago to try to negotiate a better deal than we have today. We would have anticipated the problem, which the Premier and the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology were well aware of, that there was going to be a decision brought down with respect to GATT and with respect to that particular sector of agriculture and industry in Ontario. Something could have been done by this government to bring in a better decision than that arrived at.

The reality is the government now has the worst of both worlds. It is shoving aside GATT as a mechanism which is inappropriate and it is shoving aside free trade. One of the only alternatives it is going to have is what was done back in the 1930s as a result of the stock market crash in 1929, because there was a series of things done at that time when people found themselves in a competitive dilemma similar in some respects to what we have today.

First, we had a very substantial erosion of the value of stocks that occurred on Black Monday a few weeks ago. One of the knee-jerk reactions back in 1929 and the early 1930s by the government of the United States at that time was to raise interest rates. Thankfully, we have not done that yet, because if you want to destroy consumer confidence in a hurry, if you want to bring the economy to a crawl very quickly, then raise interest rates. Thankfully, the government did not do that.

The second thing they did back in 1930 was to reduce government spending. It is interesting that the first, almost knee-jerk reaction of the Treasurer of this province was to send out a signal to the municipalities and the school boards that, "By golly, you may not get the level of funding we had promised you because times are tough." He said the same thing about pension programs. He sent out all the negative signals, all the wrong signals to the economy at a time when people needed some injection of confidence.

Instead of taking a longer look at the situation—he did not have to cut back at that particular time; the moneys and revenues were committed in this budget by this province and he could have maintained a very equitable kind of direction in terms of staying on course. He did

not have to take what I consider to be nothing other than a knee-jerk reaction, but he did. I think that may have caused some slippage in the economy as well because of the concerns those kinds of comments made. There were headlines, I might add, across this province in many local newspapers with remarks from local officials indicating their concerns about a cutback in the transfer grants from the province.

The third thing that happened, however, back in 1929 and 1930 that I think we should look at carefully in terms of the reaction of the current government to some of the very real and critical problems we face today is that the government back in those days raised tariffs and built a higher protectionist wall. Members can anticipate what happened as a result of that wall being constructed. What happened, very quickly, was that there were retaliatory measures brought about by some 40 countries in the world as a result of those tariffs going up.

The end result of all that exercise was that world trade was brought to a crashing halt. It was almost like a self-fulfilling prophecy, what they did and how they went about doing it. As a result of those three measures—cutting back government spending, increasing interest rates and putting up protectionist barriers—trade started to slow down.

That is why I guess the members of my party happen to be free traders. We believe in a level playing field. We believe we can enhance and expand our trade with the United States. We believe we can do that in a way that will increase jobs in this province. We have confidence in the ability of the people of Ontario to compete because what has happened over the course of the last few years—only about 15 per cent to 20 per cent of the products that flow back and forth between Canada and the United States are now under discussion with this free trade deal. Most of them are already exempt from tariffs. Most of them are outside any kind of tariff barriers.

As those tariff barriers have come down, as there has been a sensible and logical removal of those barriers to a trading arrangement between ourselves and our largest trading partner, an interesting phenomenon has occurred. More jobs were created in Ontario. Some industries became far more competitive and the net result of it was that we ended up with a much stronger economy in this province than we had previously.

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So the kinds of forecasts we have seen, in connection with what will happen in a trade deal, that have been circulated before us as they were

today by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, suggesting there are 400,000 "sensitive" jobs if there is a trade deal—we recognize there are going to be some sensitive jobs. How many jobs are going to be sensitized in any fashion if there is no trade deal? There are many jobs in the apparel business, in the shoe business and in light manufacturing that are under intense competition today for which we have to develop programs of retraining, industrial support programs to help them respond to the changing conditions, the changing realities of today's competition in order to retain and keep those jobs for the future.

You do not undertake protection for those jobs simply by increasing tariff barriers and tariff walls. It has never worked before. You cannot hide behind them for ever because we are a trading province, a trading nation, and we require that kind of interrelationship with other countries in order to survive. In my view, the implications of the government taking the kind of stand it has taken are very serious.

It is interesting to note that seven out of the 10 provinces are committed to a trade agreement at the present time. There are only three provinces that are opposed. Prince Edward Island has indicated its opposition. Ontario, obviously the largest province, has indicated its opposition but has not done anything about that to this point in time. Third, we have the Premier of Manitoba who has changed his tune somewhat in that he is now opposed to free trade, but not all that long ago he was making comments to the effect that he thought a trade agreement with the US would enhance and enlarge our market capabilities and opportunities and that this would be good for Manitoba. As he has changed his position, there are three provinces opposed; seven are in favour at the moment.

Let me say in regard to what I consider some of the concerns about the economy—I have talked a little bit about the free trade arrangement and we will be making comments on that as the days and weeks ahead unfold. I want to talk a little bit about the spending on the part of this government which I think is going to cause some real concerns in the province unless it is brought to a slower rate of growth. I do not say to cut back entirely and I do not say it should be reduced, but I do say it should be more in line, if you will, with the level of inflation.

It is interesting to note that over the course of the past two years inflation arguably has been in the range of about four per cent a year. So over those two years you would have, you would

think, in order to keep up with the level of spending that inflation would call for, an increase of about eight per cent overall in the budget over that two-year period. But that is not what happened on the other side. What did happen on the other side was a rate of spending increase that went up three times as fast as the rate of inflation. That is a little scary for some of us who recognize that there may be a rainy day coming for which they should have put aside a little bit of money or perhaps prepared in a somewhat more anticipatory fashion for the requirements the government will need if the economy slows down.

What has happened is that they have marginally lost the triple-A credit rating, which increases the cost of borrowing on the part of Ontario. They have expanded the civil service by 5,000 employees; a quarter of a billion dollars. They have enlarged the provincial budget by 25 per cent over what it was previously. Now we go into the next fiscal year with a throne speech that addresses none of these questions. It does not indicate, "Well, we had to expand the budget to look after some serious shortfalls in funding on the part of the previous government," which is their line on virtually everything, never recognizing that we came through a period of recession—the reality is that they have expanded the expenditures very rapidly.

I know there are some closet fiscal conservatives over there because I saw one of them once. I would hope they would recognize that in all probability they have a budget deficit this year of something in the range of \$1.3 billion in a period of time when we have experienced some of the strongest growth Ontario has realized in many decades. It is also interesting to note—I want to be fair in my comments in relation to the increases in revenues on the other side—that they have not taken all the credit for those increases or for the buoyant economy because they know full well they are going to have take full blame for the downturn if they take all the credit for the increases.

The reality is that the economy was turning around very substantially in 1985 and they experienced the good parts of that turnaround in regard to both employment growth and the expansion of revenues. I say to them again that kind of revenue growth will not happen in all probability in the next couple of years ahead, so I ask the government to look very carefully at its budget in the months ahead in an attempt to keep those expenditures under reasonable control.

Let me close.

Mr. B. Rae: You just got started.

Mr. Brandt: I could go on.

I left a few items out because I want some of my colleagues to have an opportunity to address these questions in the days ahead.

Let me make a comment, if I can, about something I feel the government should be aware of. Perhaps some of the members of the government have not had it explained to them in the fullest sense that may be necessary. This is in regard to the role of the opposition and the financial resources an opposition party needs in order to appropriately carry out its responsibilities in this forum.

We recognize that we are outnumbered about three to one in terms of the members who were elected on September 10. As I indicated, we accept that reality; but we also, as members of the opposition, have a very important role to play. The opposition parties went before the government and requested a decrease from what they had previously received in the year before the election. They actually asked for a \$500,000—was it not a \$500,000 decrease?

Mr. Harris: Yes, sir.

Mr. Brandt: That is right. There was a \$500,000 decrease that we were prepared to negotiate with the government. The government at that time put forward the position that we had to accept the fact we had some 35 members and as a result of having only 35 members we were going to get allocated a very substantial cut in the number of dollars we felt were necessary. That again is the prerogative of the government. They have the numbers to make those decisions and I want them to know that we recognize they do have those kinds of prerogatives.

But that is not what happened in Ottawa. In Ottawa when there was a very substantial majority elected, the government of the day, some three years ago, recognized the rights of the opposition and gave it exactly the number of dollars it had with the government previous to that. In other words, they provided the opposition members with the wherewithal financially to be able to carry out their responsibilities. I think this is perhaps a small indication of the creeping arrogance we see coming forward on the other side.

An hon. member: Galloping arrogance.

Mr. Brandt: Some have suggested that it is not creeping arrogance, that it is galloping arrogance. Just because they have 95 members does not mean they can run roughshod over this House. It does not mean that the opposition

members do not have certain rights and responsibilities. The government also, I believe, has a certain responsibility to provide the members of the opposition with the financial capacity to be able to put forward a responsible opposition on the questions of the day, in order for us to hire for our needs and our requirements in terms of research staff and personnel.

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However, the government chose not to do that. I would hope that is not a signal of what is to come in terms of the approach this government is going to use in its relationship with the members of the opposition parties, because I want to say this: Either we can co-operate with the government and make life easy for it on a number of its initiatives, or we do not have to co-operate. I have committed myself earlier in my address to dealing with issues, not to dealing with personalities, to try to expedite the business of government, to help it when it is doing what we feel is right for the people of this province. But we can also flip the coin and take the other side, if you will, if it is necessary for us to be a touch more obstinate in terms of our response to proposals that come forward from—

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: From the member for Carleton (Mr. Sterling).

Mr. Brandt: —the government. I have received a very interesting note from my colleague. I am going to leave the discussion of that particular matter for another day a long time from now.

In the light of the remarks I have made in response to what I feel is an inadequate speech from the throne, I want to indicate the Progressive Conservative Party will be voting against both the amendment of the member for York South (Mr. B. Rae) to the throne speech and the government's motion to the throne speech.

Mr. Beer: It is a pleasure for me to have the opportunity this afternoon to rise and speak in this debate, as it offers me the first opportunity I have had to do so since the new session began. I believe it is appropriate, when a new member speaks—and for a new riding, as I do today—to make some reference to that riding, and I do so with particular pride for a reason that I will outline in just a moment or two.

Before doing that, I want to pay tribute to my predecessor, the present member for York Centre (Mr. Sorbara), the Minister of Labour, who from 1985 to 1987, was the member for a much larger riding. Because of the tremendous growth in York region, we were able to add an extra riding.

I know my friend and colleague the member for Markham (Mr. Cousens) appreciates the fact that we now have four voices, including that of my colleague the member for Durham-York (Mr. Ballinger), whom we share, in a way, with our neighbour Durham, to speak on behalf of issues that affect York region.

My predecessor established, among many other things, one very important trait; that was his openness and the fact that he was always accessible to the electors in the riding to discuss with them the various problems and issues they wished to raise. It will certainly be my intention to continue that tradition in the riding.

I want also at this time to pay tribute to William Hodgson, who was the member from 1967 until 1985. As some members will be aware, during the summer he suffered a heart attack. I did want to take this occasion formally to tell the House that he has recovered and is in good spirits. I think we all wish him very well in the years ahead.

The new riding of York North comprises the towns of Newmarket and Aurora and King township. One of the interesting aspects of the riding is that although the urban areas have been growing at a tremendous rate, one of the major attributes of the riding is the largest part of the Holland Marsh, which of course is one of the great agricultural areas that we have in the province.

Historically, this has been an area where the tradition of dissent, the tradition of reform, the tradition even, at times, of rebellion has been very strong. It is significant that this year marks the 150th anniversary of the 1837 rebellion. As everyone knows, William Lyon Mackenzie found his greatest reform strength in the area known as York North.

I commend to all members who have a strong interest in history—and I am sorry that the government House leader, the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway), could not be with us at this time because he does have a strong interest in history—Rebel County by Terry Carter, a Newmarket resident, which sets out much of the history 150 years ago. I think it is fair to say that my riding has a strong, true Grit tradition, and I am proud to continue as the member for that area.

I have had the pleasure of listening to the speeches of both the Leader of the Opposition and the leader of the third party. I noted that they set out what they hoped would be a constructive approach that they would take in this debate and in others, and I welcome that. As one who, a

number of years ago, worked when our party was not quite so fortunate and sat in the opposition, I recognize that there is always a dilemma within the opposition parties in terms of what one wants to put forward in a positive and constructive way and what, simply because one is the opposition, one must be involved in opposing and, in many cases, negative approaches to different problems. But I appreciate what it is that they hope they can do over the next three or four years from their particular perspective.

There were several comments made about the extent to which we on the government side would be listening to the comments of the opposition and, in particular, comments about us being complacent, inactive and arrogant. As a new member, I want to address those comments very specifically. In our caucus at this time, 48 of us were elected for the first time on September 10. I want to make very clear to the Leader of the Opposition, to the leader of the third party and to all members of this House, that we did not decide to run, we did not seek the nominations for our party in our riding, we did not campaign to be elected simply in order to sit back and do nothing. Far from it.

If we look at the members who were elected in the recent election, I believe we will see men and women who were active in their own communities in a variety of ways, who are definitely not those who tend to sit back and wait, but who rather want to get involved, to deal with the issues and the problems of their constituents and therefore, globally, to deal with the problems and issues that are facing the people of Ontario. I take great exception, and I know my colleagues do, to the charges that somehow, because there are 95 members on this side, we will become complacent and fail to act on the issues of the day.

Another point that was made, and I think needs to be addressed, is the question of who represents whom in this House. We hear a lot about ordinary people, the working people, and it is sometimes suggested that there is only one party that somehow can represent those interests. With respect, I think everyone elected to this House had to be supported in some fashion by all the people in the riding, including those who were defined as being the working people, the ordinary people. I take great pride in the fact that there were members involved in my campaign who are strong unionists and who feel strongly about that, but who felt that the Liberal government from 1985 to 1987 had demonstrated qualities of leadership and that it was putting forward a program they could support. As their

member, I must now speak for them as strongly as I would speak for any other resident in my constituency.

I think we have to accept—and the member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman), in our emergency debate on housing that we held the week before last, put it quite well—that we do get involved in a great deal of rhetoric in this House. But if we are honest with each other, we recognize that perhaps the people for whom it is most difficult for all of us to speak are those people who are the homeless, those without hope. In that sense, none of us in any of the three parties in this House, in any real sense, can say that he has that kind of experience and can speak for them, with the possible exception of our colleague the member for Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston), who as we know—and I have great respect for the work he has done in that regard—has tried to look very deeply into questions of poverty.

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It is our role as individual members to speak for all the people in our constituencies as much as we possibly can, and certainly that is the view that I believe all my colleagues take on this side of the House. We intend to be open. We intend to be progressive. We intend to be activists. I do not intend to sit here—and I know my colleagues do not—and let problems wash over us. We will attack those problems and we will try to bring forward policies that will, in the long run, demonstrate that this is a government that is going to deal with the agenda that is at hand.

I want to deal with a number of critical issues. I will be dealing with them in the context of my own riding, but I believe these are issues we will see right across the province, and I am sure other members will raise similar examples. In my own area—and here I speak not just for York North, but for York region, because I think the problems we have in the region, whether in York Centre, in Durham-York, in Markham or in my own riding, are very similar—the problems I want to touch on are education, housing, health, seniors, day care and transportation.

I do not want to get too much into statistics, but I think there are a couple that we need to put forward in order to understand the magnitude of the problem which we in York region are facing. Our problem, simply put, is growth. It does not matter what area of interest or what issue you discuss, we are feeling the tremendous impact of growth. From 1985 to 1986, our population went up over eight per cent, from 324,000 to 350,000, and it is expected this year to hit some 380,000.

This has affected absolutely every area of activity, and none more so than education.

Much was made by the leader of the third party earlier today of the fact that there are some 150,000 children in portables. I do not think anybody in this House accepts that even one portable is something we want to see, but if there is one thing that I believe it is fair game for us on this side of the House still to say to the former government, the government prior to 1985, it is that that government was the father, the mother, the grandparents, the uncles, the aunts of underfunding, and we are still paying for what it did not do.

When we look at the increase in educational capital funding which this government brought in between 1985 and 1987, we can see the nature of the problem. In my own area of York region last year, separate and public school boards were allocated over 40 per cent of the total allocation of capital funds in Ontario. We recognized at that time, with that incredible amount of money, some \$88 million, it still was not going to be sufficient to match the growth of the area. So we have in York region some 600 portables.

I know my colleagues the member for Durham-York, the member for York Centre and indeed the member for Markham all recognize that is not acceptable. I believe that one of the reasons I am here is that during the campaign I specifically addressed that question, and I will be working very hard in the days and months ahead to ensure that York region continues to receive a significant proportion of capital funds, because that is where the people are going. That is where the growth has been.

It has been said that we have been paying less attention to education. Certainly it seems to me that by the allocation of capital funds we show that not to be so. There is much more that can be done and we are doing it.

There is a second part to the problem of education. Obviously, capital is critical and obviously, in the fast-growing areas of Durham, York, Peel and Ottawa-Carleton it is particularly important. But I think it is significant that the government has also chosen to move in terms of what we are doing in the classroom, because we must never lose sight of the fact that the most important thing that is going to happen is what is happening within the classroom; what are the programs? To that extent, the initiative that was announced during the campaign to provide increased funding so that we can lower the class sizes in the primary grades is an extremely important move.

When we look at the problems we have that deal with literacy, when we look at the problems we have of drop-outs, clearly where we have to begin is to address the education received by those in their earliest years. If you speak with teachers, if you speak with trustees, I think you would find that there is acceptance that the initiative is a positive one, and it is one we plan to move forward with as soon as possible because, with those smaller class sizes, I think we will be able to teach the basic skills in a much firmer and more co-ordinated way and, hopefully, as the children then proceed through the system, we will begin to see less of a problem with literacy and less of a problem with drop-outs. I am not saying that is the only factor that affects those two areas, but clearly, the stronger the education in the lower grades, the better those students will be, I believe, as they move through the system.

Now, Madam Speaker—Mr. Speaker. One gets confused now, Mr. Speaker, but your beard is most reassuring.

The next issue that is a critical one in our area is that of housing. I listened and I found extremely helpful the emergency debate we had two weeks ago—helpful because I felt each member who spoke raised very legitimate issues and concerns, and in that sense it truly was a debate. The honourable leader of the third party stated earlier that it is important that we listen to each other in these debates, and I think that was one where there were comments, perspectives that were offered that, as a member of the government, I quite accept we have to listen to and indeed act on.

I would not for one moment try to argue that the housing scene in Ontario is acceptable, but then neither does the Minister of Housing (Ms. Hošek). We have a challenge before us. We have an opportunity before us to try to get significant movement on a number of critical issues in housing. In my own area, we have, ironically, seen an incredible increase in housing in all parts of the region, but of course our concern resides particularly with what is termed the affordable housing area, and there are many problems there.

I think it was clear in the debate we had two weeks ago that there is in fact no one simple answer. There are probably a number of answers. There are probably still some mistakes we will have to go through before we can get the kind of housing we require, but I think every single member in this House knows that within his or her riding there are serious housing problems.

I am committed to see this government play a lead role in a number of ways. Obviously, we

have a role with respect to funding, but it is more than funding, and I think we have to ensure that we look at the different aspects of this housing dilemma. It gets into red tape, it gets into planning, it gets into restrictive bylaws, it gets into what is often termed the NIMBY syndrome—not in my backyard—and, if you like, leading and convincing people that we must assume obligations for those who are perhaps not as well off as many of us are.

Certainly, in York region we need more kinds of a broad range of housing. Whether it is rental, co-op or assisted, there is really no category of housing that we will not require in the future. One of the interesting things I discovered as I went around to plant gates during the election campaign was where many of the younger workers lived. I found that many of them lived in parts of Metro Toronto or in the far northern part of York region beyond my own riding, where they were going to try to find cheaper accommodation.

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I am sure every one of us has examples of individuals who came to us, or whom we met during the campaign, who set out a housing problem with which we could be nothing else but sympathetic. Yet, at times, we felt very frustrated because we were not able to instantly offer some solution to their housing problem.

I make it very clear that housing must be a priority of this parliamentary session. It will certainly be a priority, I believe, for many of us on this side of the House in the government. I believe we have a minister who is very much aware of the magnitude of the problem and who is going to attack it in an activist and courageous way.

The next issue that I want to touch on briefly is health care; in particular the question of seniors and seniors' health care. Again, growth is overcoming us in York region. Last spring, we received two major sums of money for the expansion of York Central Hospital in Richmond Hill and York County Hospital in Newmarket, yet we know it will take three or four years before those additions come on stream.

So we have a real problem, with the tremendous growth in the population, in providing the beds and the services that everyone requires. That is another capital funding problem that we are going to have to address. I have to say, from this side, clearly we do not have all the funds that would allow us to meet all of the capital problems.

I was speaking of education before. The basic, most serious school problem in York region is where we want to have the schools. If we were to meet what the two school boards want this year, it would necessitate something in the order of \$100 million in capital for this one year. When we add that to the various other areas, such as housing, health care and transportation, members can see the magnitude of the problem we face, the need to set our priorities clearly and the need to try to find, in some cases, nonfinancial ways, nonfiscal ways to get over some of those problems.

Related to the health care issue, and one which I think is very important for us, is the issue of seniors. We have in York region an institution known as Greenacres home for the aged, which a number of members may be aware of. This home is operated by Metropolitan Toronto, but in the next year or so will leave its control and come under the aegis, possibly, of York region, or there are other approaches that we may take. It raises the significant question of how we handle those seniors who, despite all other efforts, will still require some form of institutional care.

I support fully the program of deinstitutionalization, of finding alternatives; none the less we must also recognize that with the increase in the population, with the dramatic increase of those people over the age of 85, there still is going to be a real need for institutional care. It is our obligation to make sure that care is first-rate.

Indeed, that was set out in the new agenda which the former Minister without Portfolio responsible for senior citizens' affairs, the member for London North (Mr. Van Horne), put out a year or so ago. I am very pleased to see that the new minister, the member for Dufferin-Peel (Mrs. Wilson), has recognized that we are going to have to work very hard to make sure the kind of care that is required is there.

There are, again, opportunities here, I think particularly in the case of Greenacres, to begin to develop a variety of alternative care, including things such as the Alzheimer's day care program. One such centre has been set up in the riding of the member for Markham. I think this is an approach that we want to explore carefully and see expanded throughout the province, but we are going to have to be very innovative in terms of finding various ways of caring for seniors and making better use of those institutions we will have in the days ahead. Greenacres will play an important role in York region in that care.

There is probably no part of the province where day care is not an issue or any place where

it will not continue to be an important issue for some time to come. Growth has meant for us a dramatic lack of available spaces. In one way, I suppose, we may be able to turn the problem of school construction into a plus, because there has been what I believe to be an innovative approach, in that as we build the new elementary and secondary schools we require in York region, we are also going to be providing a day care facility attached to those schools.

There has been much discussion in York region, and I am sure there will be in other areas, from a number of people who have been concerned about placing a day care facility as part of a school. While I believe there are perhaps some technical or administrative problems, it seems to me that can be a very positive approach and in our own case, in York region, where the need is quite desperate, I see this as an important way in which we can begin to address the problem of having more day care spaces. There are obviously other issues as well that go along with this, but that is one of the most important ones, simply to get the spaces we require.

The final major issue I would deal with in terms of York region is that of transportation. We have seen in the last year a move to develop Highway 407, which is greatly needed. Highway 404 is being finished up to Newmarket and we hope will go beyond, but there are other needs related to that, such as transit. As we grow, our need for better bus service and better train service becomes increasingly apparent. In York region, the regional council is trying to address this and will be launching a major study next year on transit we require.

Clearly, in all of these areas, the province is going to have to play an important role from both funding and planning points of view. The dilemma will be to what extent we will be able to offer leadership and to offer, where we can, the funds that will be required to ensure that these transportation services go forward.

I accept that these issues I have raised in terms of York region are not unique to the area, but I think we all recognize that these are the areas where we are going to have to work very hard over the next session. Particularly in the fast-growth regions of Durham, York, Peel and Ottawa-Carleton, I think we may have to look for new funding formulas and new planning formulas to ensure that a lot of these services come on line much faster than would be the case perhaps in more slowly growing communities.

I feel it is appropriate today to note another anniversary. Almost 20 years ago this week,

former Conservative Premier John Robarts launched the Confederation of Tomorrow Conference. Many members will recall that the conference in November 1967 did, in fact, open what at that time was the new Toronto-Dominion Centre, but that conference launched us on a road which, in a sense, we are still on.

As honourable members know, in this session we will be addressing the question of the Constitution. The throne speech pointed out that a select committee would be formed and I think it is appropriate that we reflect back on where we have come from over the last 20 years in terms of a variety of public constitutional discussions and changes, and how important it will be for all of us as members of this Legislature to reflect very seriously and at length on the issues that will be brought before us in terms of the select committee.

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I think it is appropriate that we remember the contribution the former Conservative Premier made to this process, and in that context I want to pay tribute to the leader of the third party with respect to his statement on bilingualism shortly after he was appointed interim leader. One of the things I found most difficult to accept—and I believe this was shared by a number of members of the Conservative Party—was what seemed to me to be a real shift from the historic position that John Robarts set out with respect to bilingualism and the position that the party took during the last election. I am pleased to see that the word “never” has been taken out, and I believe there will be a more constructive approach on this particular issue. I commend the member for Sarnia (Mr. Brandt) for making those statements several weeks ago.

J'aimerais maintenant ajouter quelques mots au sujet de notre engagement, c'est-à-dire l'engagement du Parti libéral, du gouvernement, à l'égard du bilinguisme en Ontario. Même dans ma propre circonscription, je suis fier que nous ayons vu une augmentation importante de la population francophone depuis des années. Nous avons maintenant non seulement des écoles d'immersion française, mais aussi une nouvelle école de langue française comme langue maternelle. Je pense qu'il y a une nouvelle ouverture vis-à-vis des questions du bilinguisme, vis-à-vis des questions de l'éducation en langue française.

Je pense que le gouvernement de mon leader, le premier ministre (M. Peterson), a pris une décision très claire en présentant ce que l'on appelle la Loi 8. Dans cette loi, nous pouvons tous voir comment nous allons assurer des

services en langue française pour la population franco-ontarienne. Il me semble que notre politique vient en ligne directe de l'ancien premier ministre conservateur John Robarts, dont j'ai parlé tantôt.

Il est intéressant de voir ce que M. Robarts a dit, il y a 20 ans, à la Conférence sur la confédération de demain. En parlant, la première journée de la conférence, il a dit, et je cite:

“Mais il n'y a pas de problème plus urgent ou plus pressant que celui de reconnaître l'existence historique, dans notre pays, de gens plus ou moins groupés dont la langue habituelle n'est pas celle de la vaste majorité de leurs concitoyens. Le Canada peut-il faire place à ces deux courants principaux de notre héritage et peut-il en être plus riche? Ma réponse”, alors la réponse de M. Robarts, “est un ‘oui’ très positif.”

Il a continué: “En Ontario, nous sommes prêts à passer des paroles aux actes. Et en fait, nous sommes en train de satisfaire, partout où cela est pratique et faisable, les besoins reconnus et réels des Franco-Ontariens.”

Alors, le gouvernement libéral, le gouvernement qu'on a élu le 10 septembre, nous allons continuer de développer nos programmes et nos services d'une façon logique et pragmatique, non seulement pour assurer l'expansion de ces services, mais aussi pour assurer que les francophones, comme Canadiens, pourront se sentir chez eux, ici en Ontario.

In closing, I would like to end as I began and to make very clear that this government is not about to go to sleep, this government is not going to become complacent, this government is not going to become arrogant. This is going to be a government that will be concerned with the real problems that people have.

In the throne speech, in the election campaign, in the throne speech of last April, if we take all of those together, there are proposals, plans and programs. We have made a commitment to act on all of those during the next three to four years, so that when we go back to the people, if we have not been able to do everything that we said, we will have at least tried. I think that is what is important to underline, and I hope the opposition will understand that complacency is not the order of the day. We will prove that by our deeds, but it is important to state that at this time.

The Deputy Speaker: The member for Riverdale.

[Applause]

Mr. Reville: It is always a wise idea to have one of your members go and sit with the third party so that you get a little clap from over there.

I think I would be remiss if I did not first congratulate the member for York North (Mr. Beer) on a very strong maiden speech in this Legislature. I am sure his constituents will read it with great pleasure. I hope they will follow along in the speech as the days and months go by to see whether the hopes the member has so eloquently expressed are, in fact, realized.

Perhaps I can take, as a partial text at least, one of the remarks that the member for York North made when he was talking about the housing situation. I, too, was glad we had an emergency debate already, at this early stage in this parliament, because I do not believe there is a crisis more severe than that which faces us in the area of housing. I do hope the government of Ontario will be aggressive as it moves to meet the housing crisis.

The member for York North says it is more than funding. Of course, he is quite right: it is more than funding. He noted there was red tape, there was restrictive zoning, there were planning concerns and considerations, there was the not-in-my-backyard factor. While that is true, I would submit that none of those is a real problem until there is adequate funding to provide for all of those projects that people have proposed.

In fact, the problem we have faced over the last number of years is that there has not been enough money in the pie that the government has created to fund housing construction. So if, indeed, there are communities that have restrictive zoning or have planning delays or have neighbourhoods that are going to resist housing for vulnerable people, those factors in themselves have not contributed appreciably to the housing crisis.

For example, the city of Toronto, I am pleased to say, has done fairly well in avoiding the restrictive zoning practices of some other municipalities and, indeed, the city of Toronto, through its Toronto Non-Profit Housing Corp., of which I had the opportunity to be a director for many years, has managed to create within its boundaries upwards of 5,500 social housing units, which I know to be significantly more than any other municipality has been able to do.

The problem, of course, that the Toronto Non-Profit Housing Corp. faces, as well as the Metropolitan Toronto Housing Co., which builds mainly for seniors, is that it cannot get enough allocations from the provincial government to build all the housing it is ready to build, nor can it get allocations in a form it can use. So the Minister of Housing, bless her heart, has got to deal with another problem, in that units that have already been recorded as under construc-

tion, in the odd way that the Ministry of Housing does these things, will not in fact ever be built. A considerable number of units, probably about 500, that were allocated for those two providers in the last fiscal year will never appear. That is because the amount of money that was allocated by the provincial government to those two providers is inadequate to cause that housing to appear.

That problem is a difficult one, because what it will involve is changing the rules so that in areas where the cost of land is very high, for instance, it is not going to be adequate to continue to offer the same kind of maximum unit price that you would in an area where the land costs were less.

1710

That fact seems to have escaped the Ministry of Housing for some years, not only the Ministry of Housing under this administration but the Ministry of Housing under that administration. It would be appropriate if the new administration smartened up and realized that when you are trying to build some housing in downtown Toronto, you will have to come up with a different kind of allocation than if you were going to build it in Thunder Bay. In fact, it should be built in both places, as well as in a lot of other places in the province.

I share those interesting views with the new member for York North in the hope that as he continues to wax eloquent about the future accomplishments of his government, he will have some opportunity to ensure that those accomplishments are real rather than rhetorical.

I do not want to speak at great length today and, in fact, I want to indicate just how long I am going to speak so that those who are waiting to speak can plan their agenda accordingly. If they are not going to get to speak, they can go and spend some time listening to something perhaps more interesting than my speech.

Mr. Jackson: You mean I can come back on Thursday?

Mr. Reville: The member can come back probably next Monday. I am going to speak until 27 minutes after—no, that is a bit long. I think I will speak until 5:25, so people can govern themselves accordingly.

I want to return to the subject matter of my question to the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan) today because I think it is instructive and will provide an appropriate response to the speech from the throne. One of the sets of cheerful comments in the speech from the throne that I provided myself with, just in case I might have to say something today, related to some useful

comments about a health care system that government might want to have.

I quote from these deathless words: "Throughout the last decade, Ontarians have been adopting a more positive attitude towards the lifestyles they choose to lead." It goes on about some things that happen to us if we make inappropriate lifestyle choices and it talks about a system that would emphasize the prevention of illness and disease. It flows right in to the incredible document that we received today called *Health Promotion Matters in Ontario*.

There are such incredibly puerile statements included in this document that it is hard to imagine an adult politician authoring these words with a straight face. For instance, on page 57 of *Health Promotion Matters in Ontario*, authored by the Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet, who was then the Minister of Health—this was in the spring of 1986 when clearly not much was growing in Ontario—he said: "The task we face is a difficult one. We are moving to change basic thinking about health care."

I find it astounding that in 1986 a Minister of Health for Ontario could stand up and say, "We are moving to change basic thinking about health care." As I had some time today, I leafed through this document, and there is nothing untrue about anything I find therein. It is all true; it is just so banal, so trite and so worked over. In fact, there were documents available in the mid-1970s that went further than this document released today by this government.

Mr. Pouliot: It lacks courage and vision.

Mr. Reville: It certainly lacks any freshness and it lacks any faint clue about whether the government understands how to implement a program that would go to the wellness of the citizens of Ontario rather than carry on with responses to the sickness of the citizens of Ontario. Frankly, I think this government has got to be able to do better than that.

I raise this in connection with the Oak Ridge question that I asked today because of the minister's responses to my question about where is the schedule and where is the calendar for the replacement of that facility. What I got back was a list of recommendations that in fact are being implemented in connection with Oak Ridge but do not deal with the central problem. That particular facility can never be renovated in such a way as to provide a therapeutic environment for anyone. Staff, patients, anyone else in that particular facility, however renovated, will never find it a therapeutic environment, will never find that in fact what can happen in that kind of

structure is going to contribute to the kind of awareness that the government says it has stumbled on recently about what should happen in a health care system.

For those members of the Legislature who have not yet had an opportunity to visit this experience—and it is truly an experience—I would invite them to call the administration at Oak Ridge and arrange for a tour. People who do not live in southwestern Ontario may have a whole different mythology about Oak Ridge than those of us who do but, in fact, quite simply the facility is a dungeon and involves a series of cells into which putting an animal would be a crime in this province. Notwithstanding that, in this place we house and pretend to treat people who are considered to be ill.

I think it is shocking that the minister does not have a plan to deal with that situation. There is no question that it is a difficult situation with which to deal, because there is a large number of issues, a whole constellation of issues around the question of how we provide a therapeutic environment for people who are considered to be criminally insane. There is another constellation of issues around the economy of the Penetang-Midland area that has to be addressed.

But it is not fair to say that the Minister of Health and the preceding Minister of Health did not have, spelled out very carefully, all the details of this problem as long ago as December 1985. Here we are almost in December 1987 and the best that has been managed is a commitment to build a much-needed recreational facility there but no plan to deal with the larger question of how it would be possible to create a new environment for people who need it and who are being dealt with partly in the mental health system and partly in the criminal justice system.

It is not a large number of people. Perhaps the people who are being dealt with in this facility are not particularly sympathetic. That is because some of the actions they are alleged to have committed are not actions that any of us would feel comfortable with. In fact, some of the actions that were alleged to have been committed by people there would make anybody feel rather ill, but our society has decided to deal with those people as people who are ill and not as people who are criminals, and in fact we have failed to do that.

I think that failure of this government actually to come up with a plan to deal with some of these long-known problems is an indictment of this government and indicates that in fact it is complacent, and it is asleep, and it is going to try

to lull the people of Ontario to sleep by constant repetition of expressions of concern about everything—concern about this, concern about that, concern about the other—and by restating the concern over and over and over again, it perhaps hopes that people will be lulled off into a semi-comatose state and not notice that this concern is not often followed up by any action on the concern.

1720

In fact, if you read this throne speech, you discover that very little action is described but there is a whole bunch of concern. This is probably one of the most concerned and actionless throne speeches you could ever have, and the only thing I can say for it is that it was quite short. It was a lot shorter than the previous throne speech, and I guess that was a blessing—at least one of the blessings.

Speaking of the former Minister of Municipal Affairs—it just came into my mind; I do not know how it got in there—

Mr. Jackson: Reading between the lines.

Mr. Reville: Actually, it is not between the lines; I am just waiting for lines to come. The member for Burlington South (Mr. Jackson) is really good at providing lines, and if he cares to do that, I will pick his up too.

One of the things I want to compliment the former Minister of Municipal Affairs on is what I believe was his determination finally to get after the whole question of the way the municipality of Metro Toronto governs itself. In fact, I welcome the announcements that were made by the current Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Eakins) about changes to the electoral structure in Metro, changes which are long overdue. Before any members of the government begin to sit back in their chairs and smile at the praise I am heaping so effusively on them, I am going to follow up this bit of praise with some criticism, which of course is the job of an opposition member.

One of the concerns that I have, and I am sure it is a concern that is shared by the member for Ottawa East (Mr. Grandmatre), is that in fact the time frame within which Metro has to implement this new system may be somewhat tight, given the necessity of redrawing all the ward boundaries and the necessity of all the incumbent politicians making their minds up about which of these wards looks best for them, which looks worse and whether they want to represent a city constituency or a Metro constituency. There will be much anxiety at the municipal level in Metro, and there is, indeed, just now.

I can see the newly elected member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Kanter) over there, who also, by the way, was an architect of this scheme. I should congratulate him on his vision and, of course, on his victory. I have not had a chance to do that publicly as yet, but members will know that the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick and I did share some time on one of the councils that I have mentioned. We had many laughs there, and of course we are looking forward to lots of laughs here too.

One of the things that I do hope will come to pass—which I read about in the newspapers, in the organ which I refer to as the Liberal house organ—I believe I read some hope in the Toronto Star that there will be some election expenses legislation and some spending-limit legislation brought forward that will apply to municipal politics. That would be a really good idea as well and also will throw many of my former colleagues in the municipal field into quite a tizzy; but high time, I should say, high time.

We will have to struggle with the vexing matter of tax credit, which I hope we get a chance to do soon. We will need to see some legislative proposals before we can do that.

Mr. Wildman: You read about that in the Toronto Star?

Mr. Reville: I think I read that in the Toronto Star. I keep seeing Anne Johnston around here, and I am sure that she continues to encourage the current Minister of Municipal Affairs to kind of get on with a number of these things so they will be in place for the next series of municipal electoral high jinks.

I promised to stop speaking right now, so I will.

Mr. Villeneuve: Congratulations to you, Madam Speaker, as having been chosen one of our Deputy Speakers in this great Legislative Assembly.

I am pleased to participate in the debate on the speech from the throne. It is a 28-page document that does not enlighten us a great deal. However, it is what some people call a blueprint; it is what some people call a lot of rhetoric; and it is, I guess, what this government is going to try to expand upon. I hope there is a great deal of expansion that occurs.

I notice that the words “continue” and “renew” show up very often, a couple of times on almost every page; and thank goodness we have been spared the words “world-class.”

As you know, Madam Speaker, I represent a rural riding, much as you do, and I am sure you

will agree with a lot of the statements I have to make here this afternoon.

The Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell) was here for a good part of the afternoon, but I see he is not with us right now.

In this document, there is only one short sentence pertaining to agriculture in all of its 28 pages. Does this mean that Agriculture and Food has been relegated to the very back bench of cabinet? I hope not, because Agriculture and Food is most important to this great province. I will read the one sentence because I believe it bears being brought to the fore. It says, and I hope someone can further explain it, "In the midst of sustained global pressure affecting the agriculture sector, we must maintain a commitment to develop innovative approaches to assisting Ontario farmers."

Mr. Wildman: They're in favour of motherhood, too.

Mr. Villeneuve: I gather motherhood is important. I would hope this government has a real and true commitment to agriculture. Agriculture employs directly and indirectly almost 25 per cent of the residents in this province. That in itself is of utmost importance. We are exporters of food, as we are importers of food, and one short sentence in a 28-page document does not bode very well for Agriculture and Food.

I am pleased to see the minister has returned in person.

We are going through some very difficult economic times in agriculture. The ministry, by its own formula, tells us that grain producers, for instance, will be faced with a 12 per cent reduction in gross income in 1987 following reduced gross income in the two preceding years. Effectively, a ton of corn is fetching the price it did 20 years ago, yet the input costs are still 1987 costs and producers are living with 1967 incomes.

We in eastern Ontario look at our fellow farmers in Quebec, where they do have a very rich support system for agriculture, and I commend them for it. I will from time to time be reminding the minister that income is of utmost importance to agriculture, and that is where his ministry should be looking towards correcting some of the grave imbalances that have occurred recently in agriculture. We have full elevators, elevators that cannot handle any more grain, and in eastern Ontario we probably had the best corn crop we have ever grown. Added to that, we have the best-quality corn we have ever grown in the great eastern part of Ontario.

1730

I have suggested on a number of occasions to the Minister of Agriculture and Food and to the ministry that we must diversify grain into nonfood production. Ethanol-methanol, for instance, would be a great way of utilizing a good portion of our surplus grain production here in Ontario. A three per cent ethanol mixture with five per cent methanol added to 92 per cent regular gasoline would be a nonpolluting alternative to the existing leaded and unleaded fuel.

We have in eastern Ontario a very large grain elevator at Prescott, which happens to be right in the riding that I attempt to represent, the great and historic riding of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry and east Grenville. I think it would be an excellent opportunity to utilize those facilities in the production of ethanol.

Also, the Ministry of Transportation has recently been to court, and it has been found guilty in a situation where some orchards have suffered damage from road salt. We now have, through research in the United States, a calcium magnesium acetate, more commonly known as CMA, as a substitute for road salt, which the US Federal Highway Administration began researching as far back as 1982. The Chevron Chemical Co. in the US has test-produced a product called Ortho Ice-B-Gone from corn, which could be utilized to manufacture the acetic acid used in making CMA.

The de-icer CMA is only one tenth as dangerous as road salt to the environment. To the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Fulton), we find many of our overpasses and structures along some of our four-lane and two-lane class 1 provincial highways deteriorating more rapidly than they should because of high uses of road salt. This, I believe, would stretch the life of these structures very considerably, while using home-grown, nonpolluting products. I think it is well worth looking into.

Another area of concern is tax rebates to senior citizens who have chosen to remain living on farm land. I brought the question to the Minister of Revenue (Mr. Grandmatre) last week. I do not know whether he was really aware of what I was speaking of, but I will quote from a letter I received— and I have received a number of such letters—which explains the situation quite well.

I certainly hope the Minister of Revenue, and also the Minister without Portfolio responsible for senior citizens' affairs, will look into a matter that is unquestionably discriminatory to senior citizens living on nonproductive, nonproducing

farms and not getting the tax rebate they should be getting.

I quote from a letter received November 4: "Recently my mother received a letter stating that since she lives on a nonproductive farm, the government has decided to punish her by cutting back on the refund of farm taxes. Mom has lived on this farm for 60 years with her husband, who passed away last February."

The letter goes on: "The tax rebate to senior citizens is now predicated on the residence and one acre. If there is any additional farm land attached to this farm holding, the tax rebate does not apply as a senior citizen." It would apply if this was a producing farm that would qualify under the farm tax rebate. However, this is a situation that is occurring in rural Ontario.

I have spoken to a number of my colleagues, and they are receiving correspondence, very concerned that our senior citizens, who have, in many cases if not all cases, operated these farms for many years, educated their families and chosen to continue living on the farm, are being discriminated against. It is certainly not a fair situation at all, not in this day and age, when discrimination is a dirty word and, I think, maybe does not exist in the Liberal vocabulary. However, this is a case in point, and I am pleased to see that the minister is here this afternoon and is taking very copious notes.

Also in regard to farm tax rebates, last year the minister who is now Minister of Revenue was Minister of Municipal Affairs, and we did have a fairly major problem in a small number of cases. I guess most of them must have been in my riding because I got many phone calls. The situation was finally corrected; however, the tax rebates were not received in many cases until February and March of 1987. This applied to taxes paid in 1986. I hope these people are taxable, but if indeed they are taxable, they will have to pay income tax on the rebate that should have been received the previous year.

Another area of concern that I have revolving around agriculture and farm families is the availability of the Ontario student assistance program to students who happen to come from farm families. Many of these students wish to go to college and, certainly, they should not be discriminated against because their parents happen to live on a farm which theoretically and on paper has considerable capital value. In reality, were this farm to be liquidated in today's very depressed agricultural real estate markets, it would probably not obtain the value that the paper says it should be worth.

We have these students working all summer on mom and dad's farm for whatever the family can afford to pay and use of the family car probably. However, when it comes time to apply under OSAP, they are very graciously refused because the family assets are beyond the criteria which allow OSAP assistance. This is an area that must be looked at. We cannot discriminate against these students who happen to live in a rural surrounding and happen to be helping their parents on the family farm, doing the very heavy work that is required throughout the summer months.

I think haying and a number of farm chores have probably driven many of our farm boys and girls to search for and seek higher education and an easier way of making a living. Be that as it may, we must not discriminate against farm families when they are applying under the Ontario student assistance program.

Pollution is a very important area. I want to discuss at some length some of the pollution problems that have been recently reported in a television program on CBC involving the residents on St. Regis Reserve, the Mohawk residents and the Akwesasne people. I believe we have polychlorinated biphenyl pollutants in Lake St. Francis, east of Cornwall, which is also the St. Lawrence River, in numbers that are very scary.

What I saw on this television interview and program persuaded me immediately to write a letter to the Minister of the Environment, the Minister of Natural Resources and the Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Mr. O'Neil). I am still awaiting the response from two of these three ministries.

We have some of the worst types of pollutants, PCBs, in amounts that are very alarming along the southern extremity of the riding that I represent. I am pleased to see my colleague the member for Cornwall (Mr. Cleary) in the Legislature this afternoon. I am sure he will agree and is as concerned as I am.

1740

I was very pleased to attend the closing ceremony of a centennial celebration which was held in the little town of Lancaster last Saturday night, a little town that has taken as its centennial symbol a cairn: a cairn that is sitting out in Lake St. Francis, a cairn that is in an area that has very many times more polychlorinated biphenyls than is allowed normally, and is also the area that is so well known for its famous Lancaster perch. I think this is something that must be addressed by this government, and particularly by the Ministry

of Tourism and Recreation, the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ministry of the Environment, as quickly as possible to try to correct what is a very alarming situation.

The weed harvesting has also occurred in that immediate area of Lake St. Francis. I am pleased to tell you, Mr. Speaker, that this was initiated under a previous government for two years on a trial basis in 1984 and 1985. This government saw fit to discontinue that program in 1986. However, through local initiative, many concerned sports fishermen and many concerned residents, the program was initiated under the very capable guidance of the Raisin Region Conservation Authority, and I am very pleased to say that the program in 1987 has worked very well, with some financial assistance from the government but primarily through local initiative in the area of Lancaster-Summerstown and that area which I very proudly represent and have represented over the past number of years.

I want to mention again, going back to the speech from the throne, that this government seems to be very determined on setting up committees, councils, etc.—the Premier's Council on Health Strategy, for instance, as if this government cannot go to the different health councils and to its, I am sure, very voluminous file on record and find out where the problems are and correct them instead of procrastinating and having more committees and more groups of people giving advice for whatever.

I am convinced that in the three hospitals in the riding I represent, a half a day at Kemptville, Winchester and Alexandria would outline what the problems are in those community hospitals and, indeed, proceed to correct the problem as opposed to procrastinating.

Select committee on education: I could not believe that one. In 1986 we had a committee, on which I did substitute from time to time, on the implementation of Bill 30, and I do believe we have ferreted out every bit of information that anyone needs to have on education and proceed to corrective measures. The Premier during the election campaign told us he would have 4,000 additional teachers and 4,000 additional classrooms. The problem with that is that we already have almost 4,000 portables. That, in simple mathematics, would mean to me that there would now be 8,000 portables. I do not believe the people of Ontario want or deserve that type of education system. We do not need a select committee on education to outline problems that have been clearly outlined on numerous occasions.

Select committee on energy: Is this the same party that, before 1985, had all of the answers for energy? I recall sitting in this Legislature on that side of the House, and time and time again the then opposition had all of the answers to correct the problems with Ontario Hydro and with energy in general. Have they forgotten them, or has there been such a turnover of people in this party that they have lost all of the answers they had? I do not know, but a select committee on energy, along with what the Ontario Energy Board does, I believe is a simple duplication of needless bureaucracy.

Conflict of interest I will not dwell on. The Premier has appointed a very prominent Ontarian to effectively remove the burden and responsibility that had been the Premier's all along up until now. I have severe reservations about the new conflict-of-interest guidelines. However, it is my understanding that under Bill 1, in this particular sitting of the Legislature, those problems with conflict of interest will be addressed. It will be interesting to see just how that legislation eventually pans out.

Mr. Speaker, I must congratulate you. It is my first occasion to address the Legislature while you, my colleague and neighbour in eastern Ontario and also the Deputy Speaker of this Legislature, are in the chair. I am sure that you will share many of the things I have just said and that we have very similar types of problems in eastern Ontario. I was very pleased when you were named Deputy Speaker.

Mes félicitations. Je suis convaincu que vous allez tirer votre épingle du jeu très bien, et nous allons essayer de ne pas vous donner plus de problèmes ou de maux de tête qu'il ne faut.

In the great and historic riding that I represent, we have seven of the 14 bicentennial farms across Ontario. That in itself basically says it all; that agriculture and eastern Ontario have been the backbone of all sections of Ontario and that indeed Ontario started in the east and proceeded west.

In the town of Winchester in 1988 we will have centennial celebrations. Whenever any of our honourable members of this Legislature are going to Ottawa or Montreal, they will be in the immediate area of Winchester and there will be celebrations throughout 1988. The neighbouring village of Chesterville will be celebrating its sesquicentennial celebrations, and members are certainly also very welcome there. As I mentioned, Lancaster is just wrapping up its centennial celebrations, which occurred throughout 1987.

In speaking of Lancaster, which I alluded to a while ago, would you believe—and I must tell the Legislature this, I was pretty proud when it occurred on Saturday night—this little town of approximately 700 inhabitants had numerous centennial activities, a parade in July and a number of other things. Certainly Lancaster perch was high on the agenda of the get-togethers. However, on Saturday evening they turned over the profit of their centennial celebrations to the recreational association, and this nonprofit centennial committee turned over \$5,000 to its recreational association. They did get an initial grant of \$3,000 from the municipality, the village of Lancaster, and a further \$2,250 from the federal government. However, that is to tell members how efficiently and just how well these rural people can operate, Mr. Speaker, and I know you agree with that.

Thank you very much. It has been very interesting participating in this debate and I certainly look forward to the developments in this speech from the throne. Again, I hope that agriculture has not moved to a back bench of cabinet.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Would some members like to make some comments pertaining to the member's speech? The minister—the member for Nipissing.

1750

Mr. Harris: The minister of what, Mr. Speaker? I just wanted to know what it was you were going to give me.

I enjoyed the remarks made by the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry (Mr. Villeneuve) and I apologize to the member that I was not—

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: East Grenville, too.

Mr. Harris: And east Grenville, that is right. I apologize that I was not able to be here for the entire text. I wondered, and I have read through the throne speech, whether the member had made any comments on the weeds.

Mr. Villeneuve: I touched on it.

Mr. Harris: I apologize. I missed them. Perhaps the member could elaborate a bit, because I was having breakfast with a number of people at Carl's Restaurant in Sturgeon Falls. We were talking about the weed problem in Cache Bay.

I know this is not a new problem, the problems we have had there, but I know that on a number of occasions the member has expressed concerns. The member and I know that the government has weed harvesters sitting and rusting away, which

it refuses to bring out to help solve the problems that the member has down his way. We are having similar problems up our way, which is why I ask the member, in the two minutes which will be provided to him, whether he can elaborate any more on where these weed harvesting machines are and whether, through any of his investigations, he has been able to determine why the government refuses to get involved when it has the equipment, when it has the machines.

There was some work done when the former government was in power, before 1985, the good old days. Perhaps it would be of interest to my constituents, particularly those from west Nipissing and the Cache Bay area, if there is anything more the member has been able to determine on that end.

Mr. Wildman: I would like to comment to the member for the united counties, et al., on his contribution to the debate. But I would like to ask a couple of short questions.

I tried to winnow out some kernels of substance from his presentation. I am interested in his comments about the tax rebates for the seniors on the farms. I am very concerned about that issue myself in that it seems some seniors who are staying on the farms in my constituency who, in the past, have been eligible for the farm tax rebate as well as the seniors' property tax rebate have now found they are being discriminated against even if they are renting the land and the land is in use for farm operation.

In passing, I wonder if the member for Stormont, Dundas, Glengarry and east Grenville could explain why the provincial government—I think it is the Ministry of Citizenship that is responsible—has not contributed to the centennials and sesquicentennials he mentioned. As I understand it, there is a grant of up to \$5,000 available. I think it would be most unfortunate if the communities of his constituency were left out of this program, either through some sort of misguided partisanship on the part of the government or the fact that the local member did not inform his own constituents of which grants might be available.

Mr. Villeneuve: I appreciate the opportunity to comment on a few of the subjects I did touch on. To my colleague the member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris): yes, the weed harvester did sit at a marina and was rusting throughout the year 1986 after having been put to use for two full summers by the previous government. Yes, there was a previous government prior to this government.

The weed harvester was used, as I mentioned, in 1984 and 1985.

This is a very important area to the fishermen of the area, particularly to the sports fishermen. The Lancaster perch is renowned throughout Ontario. Yes, the weed harvesting is now back on schedule, I say to my colleague from Nipissing. However, it is being done through the Raisin Region Conservation Authority. Some funding came from the city of Cornwall, some funding came from the united counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, and some funding is coming through the Raisin Region Conservation Authority.

On the tax rebate for seniors—

Mr. Harris: Can we borrow the machine when you are finished?

Mr. Villeneuve: I do not know. We do not want to leave that machine go at all. We want to keep it where it is doing a lot of good. I am sure the member could use it in Nipissing in many of those great lakes to try to clean them out and improve the fishing and the tourist facilities.

Tax rebates for seniors, to the member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman), is something I feel must be corrected immediately. I am pleased to see that the Minister of Revenue was here taking notes. It is something we must not allow to go on.

On motion by Miss Roberts, the debate was adjourned.

The House adjourned at 5:56 p.m.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*

(130 seats)

First Session, 34th Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. Lincoln M. Alexander, PC, QC

-
- Adams, Peter (Peterborough L)
 Allen, Richard (Hamilton West NDP)
 Ballinger, William G. (Durham-York L)
 Beer, Charles (York North L)
 Black, Kenneth H. (Muskoka-Georgian Bay L)
 Bossy, Maurice L. (Chatham-Kent L)
Bradley, Hon. James J., Minister of the Environment (St. Catharines L)
 Brandt, Andrew S. (Sarnia PC)
 Breaugh, Michael J. (Oshawa NDP)
 Brown, Michael A. (Algoma-Manitoulin L)
 Bryden, Marion (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
 Callahan, Robert V. (Brampton South L)
 Campbell, Sterling (Sudbury L)
Caplan, Hon. Elinor, Minister of Health (Oriole L)
 Carrothers, Douglas A. (Oakville South L)
 Charlton, Brian A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)
 Chiarelli, Robert (Ottawa West L)
 Cleary, John C. (Cornwall L)
 Collins, Shirley (Wentworth East L)
Conway, Hon. Sean G., Minister of Mines (Renfrew North L)
 Cooke, David R. (Kitchener L)
 Cooke, David S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
 Cordiano, Joseph (Lawrence L)
 Cousens, W. Donald (Markham PC)
 Cureatz, Sam L. (Durham East PC)
Curling, Hon. Alvin, Minister of Skills Development (Scarborough North L)
 Daigeler, Hans (Nepean L)
 Dietsch, Michael M. (St. Catharines-Brock L)
Eakins, Hon. John F., Minister of Municipal Affairs (Victoria-Haliburton L)
Edighoffer, Hon. Hugh A., Speaker (Perth L)
 Elliot, R. Walter (Halton North L)
Elston, Hon. Murray J., Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Bruce L)
 Epp, Herbert A. (Waterloo North L)
 Eves, Ernie L. (Parry Sound PC)
 Farnan, Michael (Cambridge NDP)
 Faubert, Frank (Scarborough-Ellesmere L)
 Fawcett, Joan M. (Northumberland L)
 Ferraro, Rick E. (Guelph L)
 Fleet, David (High Park-Swansea L)
Fontaine, Hon. René, Minister of Northern Development (Cochrane North L)
Fulton, Hon. Ed, Minister of Transportation (Scarborough East L)
 Furlong, Allan W. (Durham Centre L)
Grandmaitre, Hon. Bernard C., Minister of Revenue (Ottawa East L)
 Grier, Ruth A. (Etobicoke-Lakeshore NDP)
 Haggerty, Ray (Niagara South L)
 Hampton, Howard (Rainy River NDP)
 Harris, Michael D. (Nipissing PC)
 Hart, Christine E. (York East L)
 Henderson, D. James (Etobicoke-Humber L)
Hošek, Hon. Chaviva, Minister of Housing (Oakwood L)
 Jackson, Cameron (Burlington South PC)
 Johnson, Jack (Wellington PC)
 Johnston, Richard F. (Scarborough West NDP)
 Kanter, Ron (St. Andrew-St. Patrick L)
Kerrio, Hon. Vincent G., Minister of Natural Resources (Niagara Falls L)
 Keyes, Kenneth A. (Kingston and the Islands L)
 Kozyra, Taras B. (Port Arthur L)
Kwinter, Hon. Monte, Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Wilson Heights L)
 Laughren, Floyd (Nickel Belt NDP)
 LeBourdais, Linda (Etobicoke West L)
 Leone, Laureano (Downsview L)
 Lipsett, Ron (Grey L)
 Lupusella, Tony (Dovercourt L)
 MacDonald, Keith (Prince Edward-Lennox L)
 Mackenzie, Bob (Hamilton East NDP)
 Mahoney, Steven W. (Mississauga West L)
Mancini, Hon. Remo, Minister without Portfolio (Essex South L)
 Marland, Margaret (Mississauga South PC)
 Martel, Shelley (Sudbury East NDP)
 Matrundola, Gino (Willowdale L)
 McCague, George R. (Simcoe West PC)
 McClelland, Carman (Brampton North L)
 McGuigan, James F. (Essex-Kent L)
 McGuinty, Dalton J. (Ottawa South L)
 McLean, Allan K. (Simcoe East PC)
McLeod, Hon. Lyn, Minister of Colleges and Universities (Fort William L)
 Miclash, Frank (Kenora L)
 Miller, Gordon I. (Norfolk L)
 Morin, Gilles E. (Carleton East L)
 Morin-Strom, Karl E. (Sault Ste. Marie NDP)

Munro, Hon. Lily O., Minister of Culture and Communications (Hamilton Centre L)

Neumann, David E. (Brantford L)

Nicholas, Cindy (Scarborough Centre L)

Nixon, J. Bradford (York Mills L)

Nixon, Hon. Robert F., Deputy Premier, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics and Minister of Financial Institutions (Brant-Haldimand L)

Offer, Steven (Mississauga North L)

O'Neil, Hon. Hugh P., Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Quinte L)

O'Neill, Yvonne (Ottawa-Rideau L)

Owen, Bruce (Simcoe Centre L)

Patten, Hon. Richard, Minister of Government Services (Ottawa Centre L)

Pelissero, Harry E. (Lincoln L)

Peterson, Hon. David R., Premier and President of the Council and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (London Centre L)

Philip, Ed (Etobicoke-Rexdale NDP)

Phillips, Hon. Gerry, Minister of Citizenship (Scarborough-Agincourt L)

Poirier, Jean, Deputy Speaker and Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House (Prescott and Russell L)

Pollock, Jim (Hastings-Peterborough PC)

Polsinelli, Claudio (Yorkview L)

Poole, Dianne (Eglinton L)

Pope, Alan W. (Cochrane South PC)

Pouliot, Gilles (Lake Nipigon NDP)

Rae, Bob (York South NDP)

Ramsay, Hon. David, Minister of Correctional Services (Timiskaming L)

Ray, Michael C. (Windsor-Walkerville L)

Reville, David (Riverdale NDP)

Reycraft, Douglas R. (Middlesex L)

Riddell, Hon. Jack, Minister of Agriculture and Food (Huron L)

Roberts, Marietta L. D., Deputy Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House (Elgin L)

Runciman, Robert W. (Leeds-Grenville PC)

Ruprecht, Tony (Parkdale L)

Scott, Hon. Ian G., Attorney General (St. George-St. David L)

Smith, David W. (Lambton L)

Smith, Hon. E. Joan, Solicitor General (London South L)

Sola, John (Mississauga East L)

Sorbara, Hon. Gregory S., Minister of Labour (York Centre L)

South, Larry (Frontenac-Addington L)

Sterling, Norman W. (Carleton PC)

Stoner, Norah (Durham West L)

Sullivan, Barbara (Halton Centre L)

Swart, Mel (Welland-Thorold NDP)

Sweeney, Hon. John, Minister of Community and Social Services (Kitchener-Wilmot L)

Tatham, Charlie (Oxford L)

Van Horne, Ronald G. (London North L)

Velshi, Murad (Don Mills L)

Villeneuve, Noble (Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry PC)

Ward, Hon. Christopher C., Minister of Education (Wentworth North L)

Wildman, Bud (Algoma NDP)

Wilson, Hon. Mavis, Minister without Portfolio (Dufferin-Peel L)

Wiseman, Douglas J. (Lanark-Renfrew PC)

Wong, Hon. Robert C., Minister of Energy (Fort York L)

Wrye, Hon. William, Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Windsor-Sandwich L)

*The alphabetical list of members appears in each issue. Lists of the members of the executive council, parliamentary assistants and members of committees, brought up to date as necessary, are published in Hansard in the first and last issues of each session and on the first sitting day of each month.

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No. 7

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

First Session, 34th Parliament

Tuesday, November 17, 1987

Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer

Clerk of the House: Claude L. DesRosiers

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, November 17, 1987

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

Prayers.

POLLING PROCEDURES

Mr. Speaker: I beg to inform the House that in accordance with section 88 of the Election Act I have today laid upon the table the interim report on the late opening of the polls in Etobicoke-Lakeshore.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

OPERATION FALCON

Mr. Wildman: I want to bring to the House's attention the Operation Falcon fiasco and to state that in our view the provincial government should institute a formal government investigation as quickly as possible into this whole matter.

As a result of this so-called investigation, two wildlife smugglers appear to have escaped criminal charges while, at the same time, 96 charges have been laid against residents of this country, all of which have failed.

For the sake of preservation of Canadian wildlife and Canadian civil liberties, a number of questions must be answered so that the mistakes of Operation Falcon are not repeated. The Ministry of Natural Resources must make clear exactly what its role was in this operation, what was the cost to the Treasury and the number of man-hours that were expended. It must be made clear why the Ministry of Natural Resources would print and circulate a report including accusations which were unsubstantiated by evidence against Ontario conservationists and business people, which led to serious injury to their personal reputations.

TRADE WITH UNITED STATES

Mr. Sterling: Over the last week, this government has released two questionable reports on the free trade agreement. If we accept the statement of the Premier (Mr. Peterson) that he wants to bring a degree of intellectual rigour to this discussion—a view which is not shared by his Minister of Culture and Communications (Ms. Munro), I might add—then obviously these reports are not a crass political attempt to sway

public opinion. No, they are simply badly researched written documents.

To assist the Premier and "the minister against trade" and their bureaucrats in dealing with their obvious deficiency in this area, I have purchased for the Premier a book. It is entitled *The Report Writer's Manual* and it was written by two college professors from Oakville. It has startling bits of information in it like, "What is a report?" "How can you recognize a report?" and "Making a report professional."

Among other things, it explains what a footnote is and how a footnote is used to separate facts from the report writer's opinions. The Premier will know that yesterday's report had a grand total of four footnotes, denoting an impartial source—the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology—in the bulk of the written report.

I am glad to send this manual over to the Deputy Premier (Mr. R. F. Nixon). Perhaps he can share it with "the minister against trade" so that we can finally get some neutral and professional opinions on the free trade agreement.

KAREN LUGTIGHEID

Mr. McGuigan: It is a tradition in this Legislature to honour an Ontarian who has acquired world-class status in his or her chosen field. We have recognized Professor Polanyi for his efforts in science and Ben Johnson for his accomplishments in sports.

Today I ask the House to join me in congratulating another world champion. She is 13-year-old Karen Lugtigheid of Blenheim. Karen is the youngest ever to win the Ontario world soybean championship judged at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair. Her entry required many hours of growing, sorting and polishing for her to be judged world champion and receive the award, which was presented this morning at the winter fair grounds.

Karen is continuing a family tradition. Her brother Peter won the world championship last year and her brother David won two years in a row. All are members of the Blenheim 4-H Craft Club and deserve recognition in this House as world-class competitors.

I ask members to join me in congratulating her family; her parents, John and Joan; and of course Karen, her 4-H club members and her friends at the Calvin Christian School where Karen is a grade 8 student.

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE

Mr. Swart: My statement is particularly for the Minister of Financial Institutions (Mr. R. F. Nixon). This morning I was contacted by the wife of a man whom the insurance companies have found guilty of making an illegal left turn or not giving the right of way even though the courts have yet to deal with his case. Both this man and his employer fear reprisals from the insurance company involved, so I will not use their names, although we talked to both parties.

Mr. X is losing his job because of plant closure and had secured a part-time job as a driver. It was to be full-time when he would no longer be at the plant. Because of his accident, his new employer's insurer says premiums on the vehicle will increase by \$5,000 per year, even though Mr. X was driving his own car at the time of the accident. With this additional premium, the employer cannot afford to keep Mr. X; thus, his part-time job and dream of a new full-time employment are gone.

The jobs of numerous other drivers in Ontario are jeopardized in the same manner. Not only do the insurance companies, which this Liberal government so unashamedly defends, have more to do with who drives on our roads than the law does, they frequently determine who can work. This government must stop playing Charlie McCarthy for the insurance companies and end this kind of insurance terrorism against people who by law are still innocent of what is at most a minor offence.

FARM TAX REBATE

Mr. Villeneuve: A week ago I asked the Minister of Revenue (Mr. Grandmaître) why seniors retired on nonactive farms had had their tax burdens increased. I have received calls and letters about this problem and letters have appeared in the local weekly and daily papers.

In response, the minister conjured up some illusions. He said he had been generous and implied that these seniors were receiving even more money. The truth is that they are not. The information the minister gave this House was clearly not correct, but I believe it was not deliberately meant to be so. The minister's staff is now aware of the problem.

The effect is that a senior who has retired on a nonproducing farm must now pay the entire tax on the farm land. The senior's eligibility for a tax grant on the property has been taken away for everything except the house and one acre. Seniors in this forgotten category have not been able to rent out their farm acreage and do not have the gross farm income to qualify under the farm tax rebate program. As a result, if a senior has 100 acres of farm land, he or she must pay full taxes.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food will not let the house be severed and the senior ends up stuck in a vicious, bureaucratic circle. The minister must look into restoring seniors' property tax grants for this category of senior. This discriminatory practice must be corrected at once.

1340

INCINERATORS

Mr. Morin-Strom: The Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley) and the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan) must respond to serious concerns about the incineration practices at the two hospitals in Sault Ste. Marie and the resulting environmental hazard that is posed for local residents.

Under a new Ministry of the Environment regulation, hospitals must incinerate pathological and infectious wastes rather than dumping them. However, the ageing hospital incinerators, especially at the Plummer Memorial Public Hospital, are not capable of meeting ministry standards. MOE officials admit that ash particles from the incinerators are frequently seen floating around the hospital neighbourhood.

Dr. Joseph Cummins, the University of Western Ontario genetics professor who has studied problems of hospital incinerators, has stated that if any ashy substance is released from an incinerator, it should be shut down because the substance could cause cancer and birth defects. Algoma's acting medical officer of health, Dr. Charles Eaid, has insisted that emission samples be tested to ensure the public's health and safety. Inexplicably, the Ministry of the Environment officials now say that extensive tests are unlikely because of the cost. Meanwhile, tests are going on or are beginning on seven incinerators in southern Ontario.

Clearly, the Minister of the Environment and the Minister of Health should get together immediately on this issue to protect the environment and health of Sault residents. Responsible

action is needed now. Why must we be left at risk?

REACTIONS TO VACCINES

Mr. Jackson: Bill 98, which is a bill passed in this House back on June 26, radically amended legislation to assist families that had vaccine-damaged children so as to prevent recurrences in this province. When the Minister of Health tables her Health Promotion Matters in Ontario, I hope she will be as concerned with style as she will be with the process and will honour the government's commitment, as contained in Bill 98, to ensure that we have a proper adverse-reaction reporting mechanism established through her ministry.

In the total absence of support from the government, the Ontario Medical Association is to be congratulated for providing leadership in this very sensitive area, which is clearly set out in the most recent OMA bulletin, which says, "We challenge the ministry to provide positions in health units with the resources required to fulfil these new obligations."

The hundreds of children who have died as a result of adverse reactions require the minister's help.

ORAL QUESTIONS

Mr. B. Rae: I was expecting the Premier to be here.

Hon. Mr. Conway: The Premier will be here shortly.

Mr. Speaker: Do I understand you wish to stand down your questioning? Is that agreed?

Agreed to.

Mr. Brandt: We will stand down our first question, but we can proceed with the second question.

TRADE WITH UNITED STATES

Mr. Brandt: The question I have is to the Minister of Northern Development. It is in regard to the report that was released identifying certain import-sensitive industries in Ontario, which the minister may recall was released by his colleague the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Mr. Kwinter).

Will the minister indicate, as the minister for northern development, which parts of this province has that report identified as benefiting from a trade agreement with the United States?

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: In answer to the leader of the third party, I just came back from the north today. If he is talking about the last report

yesterday, I saw what was on TV but I did not read it. That is all I can say at this point.

Mr. Brandt: To be of some assistance to the minister, in the report that was released by his colleague the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, it was pointed out very clearly that a very substantial number of industries in northern Ontario would benefit from free trade and that there would be a rather significant amount of employment and job enhancement as a result of those industries, which are very sensitive to exports in terms of their continued viability.

With that being the operative part of the report that I wanted to bring to the minister's attention, will he then indicate to his cabinet colleagues and to the government his support for a trade agreement that will create jobs in northern Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: I was in Thunder Bay on the weekend with the cabinet subcommittee on free trade and I know what the member for Sarnia (Mr. Brandt) is talking about with regard to pulp and paper and mining. As for the sawmills people, last Friday they did not come out that strongly for free trade on account of the fact that they are still under the 15 per cent. They were not exempt; so the sawmills are not gaining at all.

At this point I can tell him—he should know because he was on this side of the House for a long time—that the forests in Ontario are at the maximum of production. I do not see any more sawmills and I do not see any more pulp mills. There will probably be one in Wawa if everything falls in good place; the study is positive not because of softwood but because we are going to use hardwood for the newspaper.

Another question the pulp and paper people did not answer for me was about fine paper. Fine paper could be a problem. The answer was that some will suffer and some will survive. We all know that. As for mining, they are all for it, but we knew that from the beginning. On the government side, as a minister I have to look at what is best for Ontario too.

Mr. Harris: This minister is supposed to speak for the north. He is supposed to defend northern interests. He is supposed to defend northern jobs. He does not even know that the report released yesterday, as flawed and biased as it tried to be, stated clearly that the north of this province will benefit substantially from a free trade agreement and in fact from the free trade agreement that has been negotiated.

The minister did not speak up for the softwood lumber industry when it had the problem. I do not know why he brings that into the discussion now.

He says there is no more wood in the Lake Temagami area. Of course, there is lots of wood; he will not let people cut it. He stated there were no problems with that mill; now we know that mill is shut down. Everybody is laid off in the plant, all the graders and what not. There is a little bit going on in the bush.

When is the minister going to keep up with his government? He supposedly sits at the cabinet table, supposedly at the priorities board or whatever they call their inner cabinet or inner sanctum. When is he going to speak up on behalf of northern Ontario? Why will he not now speak up on behalf of the north and support the free trade agreement, at least as it pertains to northern Ontario, as is his job?

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: About Temagami, the member for Nipissing should get his facts straight. He knows things about Temagami that I do not have to mention in this House; he knows that himself. The problem with the mill in Temagami has nothing to do with the forest. The problem started in 1982 and he knows it, so why does he bring that up over there?

Mr. Harris: Because we saw it in 1984 and then you blew it in 1985.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: Never mind. He did not start anything in northern Ontario. He gave all the forests to the big companies and the small mills had nothing left for them. As far as free trade goes—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Any further response?

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: I will tell the member for Nipissing that on Temagami he should tell the truth to this House. He does not want to tell the truth about Temagami and the sawmill there. There is a problem with the wood allocation, but there are other financial problems too, and he knows that. He should tell the truth in this House about the sawmill.

Mr. Harris: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: I think the minister has implied that I did not tell the truth. I said the mill—

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: No, no.

Interjections.

Mr. Harris: Is it my right to ask the Speaker? I think the minister pretty clearly implied it. I stated the mill in Temagami was shut down. If that is incorrect, then perhaps he could explain it to the 200 workers who are out of work. If it is not, perhaps he could apologize to this House.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Nipissing has suggested the minister has used unparliamentary language. It was very difficult for me to hear.

Mr. Villeneuve: Is he parliamentary or not?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: I cannot say what the minister said. I do not believe the member for Nipissing stated the exact words the minister used, so I am not aware. Does the minister have any comment he would wish to make?

1350

L'hon. M. Fontaine: Si je dois m'excuser, je vais m'excuser. Mais j'ai seulement demandé au député de Nipissing qu'il dise la vérité par rapport au moulin de Temagami. Au moulin de Temagami, il y a deux problèmes. Il y a le problème de la location du bois et un problème de finances. C'est une chose qui existe depuis six ans; alors, il devrait le savoir. C'est dans ce sens-là que j'ai dit qu'il devrait dire la vérité.

Alors, je m'excuse si—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I listened very carefully, and my decision is that in my view the minister did clarify the fact. It was very close to saying the member did not give out the truth, but that is very close.

Mr. Wildman: He apologized.

Mr. Speaker: He apologized.

We will revert to the Leader of the Opposition.

HOUSING ALLOCATIONS

Mr. B. Rae: My question is to the Premier. I wonder if the Premier can tell us how many families are now on the waiting list for assisted housing in Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I am sorry, I cannot give my honourable friend that number.

Mr. B. Rae: Perhaps I could tell the Premier there are over 27,000 families who are now on the waiting list in Ontario. Given that fact, which he was not aware of, I wonder if the Premier can explain how it is that the government in the last year underspent its budget with respect to community housing by nearly \$41 million. Given a waiting list of that size, the number of families who are living in basements and the number of kids who are sleeping next to water heaters, can he explain how it is conceivable that it is possible for the government to have underspent money that was appropriated by the government of Ontario to the tune of nearly \$50 million total?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I certainly recognize the problem and I apologize to my honourable friend that I did not have the precise figure at my

fingertips. My honourable friend is right; there is a major problem.

Plans have been put into place. Unfortunately, they could not all be taken up in the first year. My honourable friend will recognize that we have an awful lot of work to do in that area, as does this government. We think the plans have been laid and they are in very good hands, and we will see some real results for this in the not-too-distant future.

Mr. B. Rae: It is absolutely intolerable that there would be families living in the conditions that there are in the province today and have a government that allocates money and then does not spend it. The Premier should know the money that was not spent could have provided for as many as 10,000 subsidized spaces in co-op and nonprofit housing in this province. That is 10,000 families who could have been helped who were not helped by this government, and that is not acceptable to us.

Specifically with regard to this question of underspending, would the Premier at least make the commitment that the money which was not spent and not directly invested in housing will be brought forward from last year and at least invested this year so that those families will not have to wait, so that the waiting list can finally be eliminated once and for all in Ontario and so that families who need to find housing will at last get it?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The way the budgeting operates in the province, there is not a carry-forward from one year to the next year, and I am sure the member will be aware of that. That being said, I think he will see that an enormous number of programs have been undertaken that I think will make a real difference. I do not try to minimize the problem for a moment; it is a serious problem. But I think the minister has this in hand and I think the member will see some real results.

RENT REGULATION

Mr. Breagh: I would like to ask the Premier what his response has been to those tenants who sent a letter to him in August of this year. These were tenants who sat on the Rent Review Advisory Committee. They pointed out that a loophole in the rent review law now allows developers and landlords to flip buildings and get a guaranteed return of any loss of investment they might have.

Despite the recommendations that came forward from that committee and from the legislative committee that dealt with that particular

piece of legislation that this should not happen, the bill has been written in such a way that it now does happen. What has been the Premier's response to those tenants?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Frankly, I am not familiar with the problem the member is raising in the House. I am willing to look into it and come back and discuss it with my honourable friend and share it with the members of the House.

Mr. Breagh: This is rather important, because it does deal with what is known as the economic-loss provisions of the bill. When the bill was going through committee, it was determined that they would not be able to do that on a continual basis. It was talked about at that time that perhaps in post-1975 buildings they might allow for that once.

The bill as written now, and as landlords, tenants and Royal LePage advisory groups are commenting on, provides a very broad loophole so that they can, in fact, speculate on apartment buildings and are guaranteed that the tenants will pay the price for that speculation. Has the Premier no response to them at all?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The member has raised a question here and I am certainly willing to revisit it. As the member knows, that legislation came through the House and was passed by a majority of members of this House. I have never pretended it was perfect, but we think it was a major step forward with respect to bringing the various groups together and trying to devise a system with some equity in it.

If there are major loopholes, then surely it is not beyond the ken of this House to revisit it. Whether the point is a valid one or not, I am not in a position to judge at the moment.

Mr. Breagh: This letter went to the Premier in August, so he should have been aware of it for some time. Let me just read, and ask for his response to, the comments on the matter in the Canadian Real Estate 1988 Royal LePage market survey, which are remarkably similar to the tenants' comments on the matter: " 'Bill 51 will intensify this trading,' says the team, 'because it has created an atmosphere in which a new owner is permitted to recover a variety of specified costs, including the costs of financing.' "

So both groups have agreed that speculation in apartment buildings will be increased because of the provisions of the bill, and that the loophole in the bill has been broadened substantially from what was originally talked about when we processed the legislation. The Premier has guaranteed that they can speculate and he has

guaranteed that they will recover those costs by the laws of Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I have not seen the clipping the member is reading from. I get a lot of letters and I appreciate receiving them all. What I will do is take up with the Minister of Housing (Ms. Hošek) the point he raises in this House and investigate it from all of its aspects.

TRADE WITH UNITED STATES

Mr. Brandt: My question is also to the Premier. It is in respect of the report, which we have taken some modest degree of exception to, that was released by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Mr. Kwinter) relative to the number of sensitive jobs in Ontario. I would like to point out that from our perspective, after reviewing the report in detail and after some further research, there are a number of things we feel have been left out of that report.

I would like to bring to the Premier's attention, as an example, importation of goods from the United States in the very sectors he identified in his report which he released in this House. The area of textiles, from 1981 to 1984, fell from 59 per cent to 51 per cent. In other words, textiles went down. Furniture went down from 49 per cent to 36 per cent. Clothing went down from 13 per cent to eight per cent.

With those three major categories all being identified as sensitive to importation of additional goods from the United States, would it not appear to the Premier that we are, in fact, competitive and are reducing the importation of these items from the US? Will he undertake today—and this is the question I want to raise with him—to provide in future reports that are going to be released by the government, of which I anticipate there will be many, a more balanced position relative to this very important debate that is going on in Canada relative to the free trade question?

1400

Hon. Mr. Peterson: As my honourable friend has pointed out, there will be a variety of reports written by a number of people who have perspectives as best they can bring them to bear on the subject at hand. My friend does not feel this one is fair. Presumably if it agreed with him, he would think it was fair. I understand that and I just say to my honourable friend, he is welcome to bring forward in this House for public discussion here in this Legislature, across this province and across this nation his interpretation of what will happen under the so-called free trade

agreement. He has so much research money now that he can publish his own reports.

Mr. Brandt: I am glad the Premier raises that point, because had he been in attendance at my response to the throne speech yesterday, I made some very small, limited contribution towards our concern about that particular issue. That is not my question.

My question was to point out the other side of the coin relative to our trade with the United States in those same sensitive industries that the Premier identified in that report, to show him how, with all of his 85,000 bureaucrats and the huge research funding he has in his party, as the government, he failed to mention that textile exports from Canada to the US went up from 32 per cent to 54 per cent. Furniture, from 1983 to 1985, went up from 92 per cent to 98 per cent. Virtually every single piece of furniture manufactured in this country is shipped south into the American market. In clothing, our exports went from 48 per cent to 81 per cent.

When is the Premier going to release a report that provides for the people of Ontario and the people of Canada a more balanced picture as to what this trade agreement is all about?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I disagree with my honourable friend. My honourable friend has given the impression that someone was trying to manipulate this report to give one side of the situation. Now, I say to my honourable friend that he is pointing out these statistics, which I do not have in front of me. I guess my question to him would be, if things are going so well now, why do we need the free trade agreement?

Obviously, the question is tariffs, which industries will be vulnerable under tariffs. Our tariffs tend to be substantially higher than those in the US, as my honourable friend will know. Certain experts are giving their interpretation of what will happen in the long term under a reduced-tariff regime. That is the information that is brought forward. If the member wants to contribute to the debate with his extensive knowledge of these things, then I welcome his ideas.

Mr. Brandt: The Premier raises the question of why, if things are going so well, we have a concern about entering into a free trade agreement. Let me just say our party recognizes that the retaliatory powers of the US with respect to protectionism are a very real concern of ours. We want to enter into a long-term trade agreement that will secure those markets, secure those jobs.

The question I raise with the Premier, very simply, is this: In future reports, will he exercise

his right as Premier simply to enhance the report and present both sides of the argument fairly, equitably and in a balanced fashion? That is all we are asking for.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: My honourable friend now comes back to his rationale for supporting the so-called free trade agreement. He says, and I gather his party agrees with him, that it will secure our access into the US market. I invite my honourable friend's close scrutiny of this deal, because I do not think he can point to any provision of it that is going to give us any more access than we have at the moment. If he looks at the dispute settlement mechanism, all it does is enshrine US trade law at the present time. I say with great respect to my friend that I believe his analysis of the situation is substantially flawed.

With respect to his second question, let me say to my honourable friend that I do not write those reports, and I do not think he would want me to write those reports and put my imprimatur on them. He is asking me to manipulate these reports somehow or other to support his point of view.

We live in a free democracy. These reports are commissioned, they are put forward for discussion. If he does not like them, he is completely entitled to stand up in this House and say so; he is completely entitled to give his analysis of the situation. But I can tell him, that is a lot more helpful to this debate than engaging just in rhetoric about what he thinks may or may not be there, as some people in this country have done. I say to my honourable friend, let him bring forward his statistical analysis; then we will talk about the facts.

HEALTH CARE FUNDING

Mr. Allen: I have a question for the Minister of Health. The minister has responded to urgent requests by Hamilton-Wentworth regional officials, including the chairman and health officials, saying to the press that Hamilton has no health care delivery problems that she is aware of. My colleague the member for Cambridge (Mr. Farnan) last week raised the urgent question of paediatric care.

Is the minister aware that throughout the 1980s, on a per capita basis, the government funded our region in terms of health services at 20 per cent less than the provincial average for comparable regions? Toronto, for example, was funded at \$955 per capita, Ottawa-Kingston at \$945, the London area at \$959 and Hamilton at \$781—a startling contrast.

Why would the minister convey the impression to our regional officials, through the press, that she thinks there are no regional health delivery problems and what does she propose to do to bring health care funding into line with the rest of the province?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I would like to respond by saying I believe Hamilton is well served and, in fact, has a world-class facility, particularly the hospital facilities that are available to the people in Hamilton, and I believe per capita figures are not the best indicator of quality health care.

Mr. Allen: I might suggest that the minister would perhaps be candid with us in speaking on this subject and that, since her ministry lost the information file the region submitted last June in making its request, perhaps she was not aware of all the information that might have been contained in it about the problems that are attached to 20 per cent less funding for our region.

Since the minister is getting urgent requests from our region and from responsible and ranking officials, and since her ministry has not yet seen fit to do more than postpone yet again a meeting with those people until the new year, will she not find time some time between now and the end of this session to sit down with those officials and to learn at first hand what the problems are in our region, because they are significant? Notwithstanding the grand record that some of our teaching hospitals have, they too are underfunded in their own way.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I do not believe the pressures that Hamilton is experiencing are any different from the pressures experienced across the province in many different regions. I would state again that I believe Hamilton is well served by the facilities which I think the member should be duly proud of in the delivery of services in Hamilton.

Let me state I am aware there has been some criticism of my willingness to meet, and I want to state very clearly that I explained to my critic the member for Riverdale (Mr. Reville) the method by which we are trying to accommodate all requests to the ministry in as open and as fair a way as possible. I have agreed to meet with the chairman at the earliest opportunity, but I do not consider there is a crisis or a reason to panic and therefore I am delighted to meet with him at the earliest opportunity.

OPERATION FALCON

Mr. Harris: I have a question for the Minister of Natural Resources with regard to a confidential leaked intelligence report prepared by the

Ministry of Natural Resources—a report, I might add, that has lost its confidentiality now it has received the circulation it has. This report served as a basis for Operation Falcon, an international birds-of-prey smuggling investigation that made headlines around the world in 1984, led to 96 criminal charges laid against 12 people in Canada, charges that have not produced a single conviction.

I wonder if the minister could tell this House when he first learned about the problems with the Operation Falcon proceeding; if he could tell us and confirm that, in fact, plea bargaining set free two self-admitted liars and wildlife bandits and that their evidence was used to justify criminal proceedings against internationally respected and innocent people; and just what investigation he has carried out with respect to this affair.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I hesitate to get too much involved in this particular question because there are charges directed towards the ministry and, of course, that puts me in a position where I have to be extremely careful as to how I react to the question.

I would say that if the honourable member is as concerned as I am about protecting the gyrfalcons and the peregrine falcons that are very much threatened, my prime concern is to join together with the Americans. This is a much broader issue than just Ontario. Indeed, it deals with all of Canada, with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. There are many players involved.

I would hesitate to try to explain the whole circumstance, but I would invite the member to come any time to the ministry and I will share any information I have with him. I am sure he will understand that I am somewhat disadvantaged if there are charges pending.

1410

Mr. Harris: I think most of the charges pending are against the bill the minister tried to introduce into the House to effect changes to the Game and Fish Act, a bill which he subsequently withdrew.

However, let me say to the minister that his own chief enforcement officer, Dale Gartley, said, “A lot of the information in this confidential report is wrong.” He further said, “Some of the private individuals should never have been named,” but he said, “The ministry’s only mistake was to let this information get into somebody else’s hands.”

The whole matter was proceeded with because of a false ministry staff premise, an assumption still held by the chief Ontario investigator, that

falcons cannot be bred in captivity. To quote the Kingston Whig-Standard, “His staff proceeded down a course which resulted in the innocent being slandered and the guilty set free.”

Why will the minister not agree today to a full public inquiry into Ontario’s role in this wildlife fiasco so we can determine what went wrong, why it went wrong, what compensation may be owed the innocent individuals and ensure that this cannot ever happen again here in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I think the obvious has escaped the member. The fact of the matter is that if it was a confidential report and it was being circulated among those people for speculation as to who should be charged or when or how, it was not for any kind of public circulation. If the member has a copy of it, that is something that should not have happened. I certainly have not seen a copy and I do not want to see a copy about the investigation that is ongoing.

Underlying all the questions the member raises is my determination to protect a species that is very much threatened, which is also the determination of the Fish and Wildlife Service of the United States and all of the rest of Canada. I am going to do that to the best of my ability. As I said before, I have to caution the member that with charges pending we cannot get into it, but I am prepared to share with him, as a member of this Legislature, all the material that I have.

YOUNG OFFENDERS

Mr. Farnan: My question is to the Minister of Correctional Services. I would first like to congratulate the minister on his appointment to cabinet. I look forward to working with the minister.

On November 4, in response to a question in the House, the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) agreed that, anecdotally, one could demonstrate increased sentences for 17-year-olds and 18-year-olds under the Young Offenders Act in comparison to the sentences they would have received under the Juvenile Delinquents Act.

Does the minister agree that this development is a discriminatory practice that was not the intent of the young offenders legislation in the first place, and will the minister outline to the House what steps he is prepared to take to bring a greater sense of fairness and justice to the differences that have developed in sentencing practices for young offenders?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I would like to thank the member and congratulate him on his victory.

The question that has been asked of me does not really fall under my jurisdiction. The

jurisdiction of my ministry is to take care of the people who have been sentenced to us, whether it be in parole, probation or incarceration.

Mr. Farnan: Ultimately, somebody will answer the question. It has gone to the Attorney General and it has gone to the Minister of Correctional Services. The Attorney General also indicated at that time that the Minister of Correctional Services and the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) are considering and will consider my request to integrate all young offenders under one ministry, namely, the Ministry of Community and Social Services—"are considering and will consider."

My question is, how long does it take? Will some minister of the government please give this House an assurance that a decision will be forthcoming in a reasonable time frame and in a specific time frame? Just how long is the minister prepared to allow these discriminatory practices to continue to exist? May I please have an answer?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: The honourable member's supplementary does now fall under my jurisdiction. The division of the care of the young offenders, as we inherited it from the previous government, as the member knows, is that the Ministry of Correctional Services takes 17- and 18-year-olds and the Ministry of Community and Social Services handles the 12- to 15-year-olds.

At this time we are quite satisfied with that system. We are talking with the Minister of Community and Social Services about this, but that system is quite adequate. Both our ministries are building YOA facilities at this time and pursuing that, so that we can make sure we serve these people well.

WOMEN'S HEALTH CLINICS

Mr. Eves: I have a question for the Minister of Health. In last Thursday's Toronto Star, there is a report that she published a statement saying the province will ensure that the Peterborough Civic Hospital's women's health clinic would go ahead.

The next day, Friday, the minister is quoted as saying, "When I spoke (on Tuesday) it was supportive of the approach they have taken without having seen their proposal." In today's Toronto Star, she is quoted as saying, "Caplan said it is 'premature' to decide now whether the centres' locations will be announced publicly."

Could the minister please tell the members of this House and the public whether that is what she has said and if there is some doubt in her mind as

to whether she is going to make the location of these centres public?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: In response to the question from my critic for the third party, let me clearly state the sequence of events and what in fact I said. When asked the question on Thursday, I responded that the approach that was being considered by the hospital in Peterborough was consistent with the approach the Ministry of Health was taking in ensuring access under the existing federal legislation to therapeutic abortion services for women in this province under a comprehensive women's health services approach.

Mr. Eves: That is all very interesting, but I do not believe the minister has answered the question. She is quoted, also in today's Star, as saying that she agrees with the timetable as laid out by Dr. Marion Powell, that some of these clinics will be open before the end of the year, yet the minister is telling us here—she still has not answered the question; she is still refusing to identify where these centres will be. She may not make that public. There is some doubt in her mind, despite the fact she is building them with taxpayers' money. I presume the idea here is to serve the public and the women of Ontario. Why will the minister not inform the public and the members of this Legislature where these clinics are going to be?

When is she going to tell us? It is now November 17. She agreed that some of them would be operational by the end of the year. What is she hiding and why is she hiding it?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: The ministry is currently reviewing numerous proposals from across the province to provide women's health services for women in need in this province. I believe the timetable that has been discussed is realistic, and we are committed to ensuring that service for the women of this province within the framework of the existing federal legislation to ensure that women have access not only to therapeutic abortion services but to all aspects of women's health needs.

GARDERIES DE LANGUE FRANÇAISE

Mlle Martel: J'ai une question pour le ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires au sujet des garderies francophones. Le ministre doit savoir que, selon une étude faite par son propre ministère en 1982, il existait, à ce moment-là, seulement 26 garderies de langue française, soit 1.5 pour cent des garderies, alors que la population francophone se chiffre à cinq pour cent de la population totale. La situation ne

semble guère s'être améliorée. Les listes actuelles du ministère ne font état que d'une trentaine de garderies francophones.

Pour autant que le ministère est en train de réviser sa politique sur les garderies de cette province, il est important d'assurer que les services de garde sont également accessibles en français. Est-ce que le ministre peut nous assurer que la politique de ce gouvernement va officiellement reconnaître les besoins spécifiques de la communauté francophone, afin d'intégrer ses membres à tout programme de service de garde à l'enfance de l'Ontario?

1420

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: The short, simple answer is yes, but let me elaborate just a little bit. I have met with the francophone community in a number of locations in the province and clearly identified for them the responsibilities of my ministry, along with the rest of the government, under Bill 8, to provide francophone services where the numbers warrant them. I have committed that that will happen.

Second, I have pointed out to the francophone community that under the new directions for day care, there is a specific reference to day care provision for special-needs groups and the francophone community has been told that it is included in that.

The one point I have made to them, though, is that in some communities, particularly the larger urban areas, the need for just general day care is so great that I may not be able to move as quickly in those locations as I would like to, but the commitment has been made.

Miss Martel: It seems to me that in this case, in particular for the francophone community, the minister is probably going to have to take a very proactive approach in helping to develop their needs and helping to develop the services.

I ask him again what specific measures and funding commitments he will implement vis-à-vis French day care services in order to take into account such factors as (a) the higher costs that are associated with establishing and operating a French day care system, (b) the allocation of subsidized spaces in order to ensure that French day care centres are able to benefit from their fair share and (c) an appropriate funding mechanism to help solve some of the problems associated with transportation to French day care centres?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: The honourable member will be well aware of the fact that there is a commitment in my budget for capital allocations all across the province. The members of the francophone community who have approached

me indicated that is their first need, just for capital funds in order to erect facilities themselves.

The second need they have expressed to me is the training of staff. As a matter of fact it is not any different, but they point out to me, and it is recognizable, that they have to have a specific kind of staff. We have agreed to deal with that. We have also agreed to assist them with respect to materials such as booklets, games and things such as those that might be more appropriate in a francophone centre than in another one.

The one area I have indicated I am going to have some difficulty with, and I still have some difficulty with, is transportation. I do not know whether we are going to be able to afford that or not, but with respect to the first three, I have given my commitment that we will deal with those.

RADIOACTIVE SOIL

Mr. Cousens: I have a question for the Minister of Housing. Last spring, the Supreme Court of Canada lifted an interim injunction prohibiting the province from moving the radioactive soil from McClure Crescent to Reesor Road in Scarborough. Shortly after that, the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley) said he would be making a decision this fall about moving the soil. Will the minister tell this House and the people of McClure Crescent when this soil will be moved?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I suggest that question would be more properly redirected to the Minister of the Environment.

Mr. Cousens: Mr. Speaker, I have an objection. This was under the direction of the previous Minister of Housing. McClure Crescent was in his riding and it was his ministry that was responsible for—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Did I understand the minister wished that question be redirected to the Minister of the Environment?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: The member is quite correct that consultations have taken place with the Ministry of the Environment to determine, if there would be any movement of the soil, what the best movement would be. There are problems, as he would know, related to ongoing actions within the court. One action had ruled upon it, but other actions have been discussed from time to time. Until such time as all of those actions are cleared up, it is difficult to make a definitive decision on the specific movement of that soil.

Mr. Brandt: I had the problem solved.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: Is the member for Lanark-Renfrew (Mr. Wiseman) volunteering to receive it?

Mr. Brandt: No, he did not say that.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: He is not.

There have been consultations over a period of time, as the member may know, with federal authorities to determine whether one of the sites the federal government has available might be suitable, in view of the fact that the federal government does have responsibility for matters which relate to radioactivity. That is primarily within the federal jurisdiction, and those discussions will continue.

Mr. Cousens: The Premier (Mr. Peterson) said that no one in his right mind should be forced to live in this set of conditions.

An hon. member: That was before 1985.

Mr. Cousens: That is right.

The Minister of the Environment said there would be an announcement this fall. Now we go back to the new Minister of Housing (Ms. Hošek). Has the new Minister of Housing had any consultations with the minister on this important matter, which was traditionally an area of great concern to the former Minister of Housing? Has the new Minister of Housing had any discussions with the Minister of the Environment on this subject at any time? If so, what did she say?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: I believe the member served in cabinet for a period of time.

Mr. Villeneuve: That was not part of the question.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: I simply say that because the member would know that discussions which take place within the confines of cabinet have traditionally been confidential, under the British parliamentary system.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: The member would also know, and I think his colleagues who have had experience would know, that discussions have gone on in various forums about this particular matter. As I say, there have been discussions with the federal authorities, between the provincial ministries, and this matter is under active review.

FEDERAL TAX REFORM PROPOSALS

Mr. Ferraro: I have a question for the Treasurer. In a recent meeting with some business people in my constituency, some

concern was expressed over the proposed federal tax reform, and indeed, specific reference was made as to what ramifications it will have on Ontario. I would like publicly to give the Treasurer a forum to address that issue, with specific reference to whether or not Ontario has a minimum tax on corporations.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I thank the honourable member for his question. I want to tell him and the House that it is my intention to make a statement to the House in the very near future on this matter, as well as on the progress through the year as far as tracking our budget is concerned and to announce our payments to our various transfer partners. He mentioned specifically a minimum tax, and I notice that it is recommended by Mr. Blenkarn's committee in the federal House of Commons and has been responded to by the Minister of Finance.

I think the honourable members would know that we have, as part of the spectrum of taxation in the province, a capital tax that is based on the paid-up capital of all corporations, including the financial institutions, which in some respects acts as a minimum tax. This has worked well in the past and it seems to be working reasonably well now.

FONDS DU PATRIMOINE DU NORD DE L'ONTARIO

M. Pouliot: J'aimerais adresser ma question au ministre du Développement du Nord. Même si le montant paraîtra insignifiant au ministre, il se souviendra sans doute, il devrait se souvenir, qu'il y a à peu près six mois, lors du budget pré-électoral qui a été déposé en Chambre en mai dernier par le trésorier de l'Ontario (M. R. F. Nixon), celui-ci a jugé bon d'établir un Fonds du patrimoine du Nord de l'Ontario.

Hélas, depuis mai dernier, quelque six mois se sont écoulés, et aussi, hélas, nous en sommes encore très loin du rôle et du mandat précis sur lequel, sans doute, résident les idées du ministre et ses projets de demain. Je demanderais au ministre d'essayer d'être méticuleux—essayez, Monsieur le Ministre—et de nous dire précisément quand et sur quel projet il entend dépenser ces quelques miettes ou ces \$30 millions de dollars.

1430

L'hon. M. Fontaine: Je tiens à féliciter mon confrère de Lac Nipigon d'avoir été nommé critique du Développement du Nord. Je l'en félicite parce que je crois qu'on va être capables de s'entendre sur bien des sujets parce qu'on a les mêmes pensées en ce qui concerne le Nord.

Une chose sur le Fonds du patrimoine, comme il doit le savoir, c'est qu'une élection s'est produite depuis le discours du trône; mais par contre, on ne l'a pas oublié. Je dois préparer une présentation au Cabinet pour être certain que l'argent va être là pour les prochaines années—pas seulement pour un an mais pour des années. En plus, je suis en train de délibérer, avec le ministère du Développement du Nord, sur les termes de référence du fonds. Peut-être que là, on devrait être capable de le mettre en place pour le 1^{er} janvier.

Mr. Pouliot: With respect, Mr. Speaker, I need some advice. I cannot use Spanish here.

On a more serious note, language is not the problem here. My friend has an IQ of 140. Unfortunately, it is 70 in English and 70 in French, so I will try the supplementary in English.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Pouliot: I take responsibility for the faux pas. I withdraw my remark.

Once a northern heritage fund is disbursed, how does the minister intend to refinance the fund and what role does he intend to play in that decision-making process?

L'hon. M. Fontaine: Le député de Lac Nipigon devrait écouter s'il veut avoir des réponses au sujet de ce fonds-là, parce qu'il a ri du fonds durant toute l'élection, puis aujourd'hui, on dirait qu'il veut prendre tout le crédit pour ce qu'on va présenter d'ici quelques mois.

Une chose que je veux lui rappeler, c'est que ce fonds va être dépensé dans le Nord, il ne sera pas dépensé dans le Sud, certain; c'est une chose que je peux lui dire. Alors, on sait par le rapport Rosehart qu'il y a des secteurs qu'on va regarder: le secteur de l'infrastructure, le secteur de la petite entreprise. On va peut-être regarder du côté du développement et peut-être mettre des fonds dans du capital de risque.

Alors, je sais que le député est impatient, mais une chose qu'il doit comprendre, c'est que cette recommandation-là a été faite il y a à peu près six mois, je suis d'accord; mais tout de même, j'ai été nommé ministre il y a deux mois. Nous sommes en train d'essayer de mettre ça en place pour la fin de l'année. C'est la seule chose que je puisse lui dire pour le moment.

CHILD CARE

Mrs. Marland: My question is to the Minister of Community and Social Services. The cost-sharing arrangement for subsidized day care

spaces is approximately 20 per cent municipal, 30 per cent provincial and 50 per cent federal, but because municipalities have discretionary power in providing subsidized day care, some municipalities in Ontario—for example, London, the Premier's (Mr. Peterson) own riding—have chosen not to do so. This has created an uneven distribution of subsidized day care spaces across Ontario.

Can the minister tell us what role the municipalities should play in the cost sharing of day care services?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: A slight correction to the honourable member's figures, because there are certain aspects of the day care program that the federal government does not share in at all. As a matter of fact, their full share is around 38 or 39 per cent, not 50. The province picks up the balance. She is correct in terms of straight subsidies. The local municipality that chooses to deal with these subsidies does pay 20 per cent.

The member may be aware of the fact that at present there is an ongoing review between the municipalities and our ministry over a whole range of cost-sharing programs, and day care is one of them. At the present time, I intend to make no changes with respect to the 20 per cent cost sharing, but that very well may change as a result of the recommendations that come from the review.

I share with the honourable member the disappointment that some communities, even though they are offered day care subsidies, choose not to pick them up. One of the possible recommendations could very well be that this would be a mandated program. I am not saying it will, but this could be one of the outcomes of that study.

Mrs. Marland: The minister has also said the province will provide mechanisms to encourage municipalities to include day care in new commercial and residential developments. Will the minister tell us what these mechanisms are?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: The previous answer partially deals with that. We have indicated to them that just as we in this government have taken the initiative through the Ministry of Education to include day care centres in all new schools and through our ministry to provide capital funds to renovate empty space in schools, we have spoken to our municipal colleagues and indicated that when they are giving planning approval to new commercial centres, whether it be a plaza or a high commercial building, we would also like them to consider the involvement

of a day care centre as part of that planning approval.

There are some municipalities that have indicated very strongly to us that they are prepared to do this. We have no mandate at present to require them to do this, but the cost-sharing review I talked about before would take that factor into consideration. If there are some municipalities that are going to generate for themselves greater costs because they take this initiative, then we are prepared to recognize that and pick up a fair share of that extra cost ourselves.

INCINERATORS

Mr. Callahan: I have a question for the Minister of the Environment.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: I don't know what it is. These are the ones I am afraid of.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Callahan: In the great riding of Brampton South, there is a proposed incinerator planned that requires an environmental assessment hearing. There is also a proposal for an incinerator at the airport or in the vicinity of Pearson airport. Is this a matter that comes within the jurisdiction of the Environmental Assessment Act of Ontario or is it an application of the federal minister?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: This is a very good question. Contrary to what the opposition thinks, I did not know this question was coming or what it was about. They always think we know all these things and we do not.

The House may want some background information on this. No? I am sorry; the Speaker does not.

There has been a proposal. I have not seen anything in a formal sense, but there have been news reports of a proposal that would call for the erection and implementation of an incinerator at Toronto international airport to deal with the wastes that come off the airplanes. It would be such things as food and the containers for food and so on.

As some members of the House who are experienced in this matter may know, this comes under federal jurisdiction because it is on federal government territory and it is a federal initiative. Under our Constitution, that supersedes the provincial government. I have on occasions such as this, however, always indicated to the federal government that we would want it to subject any such proposal to the most stringent federal

assessment that is available, and that that assessment be as comprehensive and as detailed as our provincial government assessment, but the ultimate decision will be made by the Minister of Transport, the Honourable John Crosbie.

1440

AUTO PACT

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I have a question of the Premier. During the recent election campaign, the Premier's party ran an election ad that outlined a number of conditions that came out of his speech that he made in Windsor, the famous six conditions. The ad starts out, "We would be better off with no deal if it is not the right deal," and concludes by saying: "And there can be no deal on free trade if it guts the auto pact. Canada's auto industry cannot be a bargaining chip, and that is my bottom line."

I would like to ask the Premier very simply what did that commitment mean. What was the bottom line? On the date that these ads were played and the speech made in Windsor, how did the Premier plan on implementing that commitment to the people who live in every auto city in this province?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I think the people who live in the auto communities in this province understand very well our view of the trade agreement. I am sure my honourable friend would agree with me that the trade agreement has substantially affected the provisions of the auto pact for the worse and not for the better. In spite of some people casting this as an auto pact plus, in fact it is not.

We have registered, as my honourable friend will be aware, that the auto pact was negotiated between two sovereign governments, between the federal United States and federal Canadian governments. Ontario did not participate in that. As he knows, we put forward our six conditions in that campaign. I am glad my honourable friend has paid as much attention as he did to our ads. He is obviously moved by them, and I appreciate that.

In our view, they did not meet those six conditions. This province stands unequivocally against the deal that has been negotiated by the Prime Minister. As the member knows, we are doing what we can do to persuade people of this country that it is not in the national interest.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: When the Premier made his promises in Windsor to all the auto communities in this province, he said there cannot be a deal if it guts the auto pact. He knew in August that the auto pact was a deal that was struck between the

federal American government and our federal government. Why could he make that commitment in August and now not deliver on stopping the free trade agreement since it does not meet his six conditions and it does gut the auto pact?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Just imagine that this deal had met our conditions. Then Ontario presumably would have supported it and it would have given a lot of weight to that agreement.

I say to the member that we are doing what we can do, given the way the deal has been crafted. The member's leader has asked me the same question on a number of occasions, and I give the member the same response that I give to his leader.

This deal does not have our support. This deal is going to be debated right across this country. Ultimately, the member is going to see a federal resolution to this question and the people of this country will have an opportunity to pass judgement on it. That being said, we are going to do what we can to contribute to an informed debate on this.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: My honourable friends in the front row over there are rather exercised. Their bitterness goes back some long way. I understand that bitterness, but let me say we are doing everything we can in our power to stop this deal.

RENT REGULATION

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I rise on a point of personal privilege, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, in response to a question from the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh), I used the number 4.7 in the wrong context. The rent review number 4.7 applies to the increases in 1988. To the best of our experience in the past, the vast majority of tenants in Ontario will receive rent increases of 4.7 per cent or less in 1988.

Mr. Speaker: That is a point of personal explanation.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

SUDBURY CARDIO-THORACIC FOUNDATION ACT

Mr. Campbell moved first reading of Bill Pr23, An Act to revive Sudbury Cardio-Thoracic Foundation.

Motion agreed to.

IRISH IMMIGRANTS' SESQUICENTENNIAL ACT

Mr. Pollock moved first reading of Bill 23, An Act to proclaim 1995 as the 150th Anniversary of the Arrival of Irish Immigrants in Canada.

Motion agreed to.

NOTICE OF DISSATISFACTION

Mr. Speaker: Before the orders of the day, I would just remind the members that pursuant to standing order 30, the member for Beaches-Woodbine (Ms. Bryden) gave notice of her dissatisfaction with the answer to her question given by the Minister without Portfolio responsible for senior citizens' affairs (Mrs. Wilson) and that this matter will be debated at six o'clock this evening.

Hon. Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, perhaps you could help me to understand what happened to the second request, standing, as I recall, in the name of the member for Markham (Mr. Cousens).

Mr. Speaker: As I understand it, the member for Markham has withdrawn it. I have no reason. The member is not here to explain, so I do not know.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

(continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

Mr. Dietsch: Mr. Speaker, I too would like to add my congratulations to you on your reappointment as the Speaker of this House. I look forward to serving with you in the upcoming term.

It is indeed an honour for me to rise today as the first member elected for the new electoral district of St. Catharines-Brock. The riding is made up of the previous Brock riding and now encompasses part of the previous riding of the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley). I pledge that I will continue to serve the residents of this area with the same dedication and purpose as my honourable friend and colleague.

I assure the House that as the first provincial Liberal elected by the residents of St. Catharines-Brock I will, God willing, endeavour to earn my riding's confidence.

1450

St. Catharines-Brock is an area rich in history and tradition and I invite those who have never had an opportunity to visit the area to come and experience the beauty and charm of areas like historic Niagara-on-the-Lake, Queenston Heights, the Niagara Parkway and the Welland Canal, which has a group of concerned residents

working on the development of this historic corridor.

Our cultural, ethnic and agricultural heritage is reflected in such annual events and celebrations as the Folk Arts Festival, the Niagara Grape and Wine Festival and the Shaw Festival theatre. These are some of the attractions that enhance and invite tourism to the Niagara region on a year-round basis.

The riding of St. Catharines-Brock has a diverse economic base. This riding is the centre for automotive parts manufacturing and has a combination of both light and heavy industry. Our enviable geographic location, between two of the largest market areas in North America—southern Ontario and northeastern United States—provides area manufacturers with a distinct advantage to market access. Our region is within one day's trucking of 120 million consumers.

Through such organizations as the Niagara Region Development Corp. we work to attract new business to the area on an ongoing basis. Agriculture is another important factor contributing to the area's economic stability. I hope that all the members of this House have had an opportunity to sample some of the excellent Ontario wines and the delicious tender fruits which are produced in the riding I represent.

Despite our apparent prosperity, a dark cloud looms on the horizon. That cloud is the free trade agreement. It was apparent to me as I listened to the speech from the throne that this government was determined to fight for the people of this province, St. Catharines-Brock and many other communities like it. The cabinet subcommittee on free trade recently visited my riding to hear the concerns of local industry and local people.

As the committee is aware, this agreement spells disaster for our grape growers, our wine makers, our tender fruit producers and our auto workers. It is no secret that this federal government has given away far more than it has gained in these negotiations. The draft agreement does not meet the six conditions that were outlined by the Premier (Mr. Peterson) as essential for Ontario.

Furthermore, compounding existing problems is the recent General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade ruling. This government must be diligent in its support of our agricultural and wine industries. It is with great pride that I take my seat on the government side and prepare to join with my colleagues to meet these challenges.

The people of St. Catharines-Brock are concerned about the environment they live in. The pollution in the Niagara River and Lake

Ontario are problems they live with every day. The beauty of this region is threatened by acid rain and by water and air pollution. Our tourist industry suffers because of the pollution in our lakes, rivers and air. However, under the excellent leadership of the Minister of the Environment, our government has taken important steps in dealing with this problem. Our environmental initiatives are highly regarded worldwide.

We will continue to meet these challenges with the progressive programs outlined in the throne speech but we will not stop there. We will continue to examine new technology to deal with these serious challenges. The steps that we have taken are in the right direction and we will continue in our quest for a cleaner, healthier environment for future generations.

During the recent election campaign, I found that education was a high priority with my constituents. At the top of the escarpment on the southern boundary of my riding sits our university. Named for Sir Isaac Brock, commander of the British forces during the War of 1812, this university in just 23 years has expanded to become a centre for not only academic pursuit but also social and cultural activities for the entire Niagara region. It is smaller than most Ontario universities, yet is highly regarded for its top academic standards.

This government in the past two years has made great strides in improving funding for colleges and universities to overcome years of neglect. The university now enjoys a record enrolment of 9,580 students. This has created great stress on existing lecture, study, parking, residence and recreational space. The administration has been innovative in dealing with the new projects, such as the science development fund, which helped develop a new facility for the science department.

Brock last month retired its deficit, which had been as high as \$800,000. The entire community has raised \$6.6 million for this university in just five years, which is an amazing achievement and illustrates the commitment our community has for this institution.

The Minister of Colleges and Universities (Mrs. McLeod) was recently at this beautiful university to open a new language lab, a facility which will provide excellent training for our language students. I am sure that she understands the problems we face and we will accept the challenges to assist our universities in meeting the demands of increasing student enrolment.

Another educational institution in our area, the Niagara College of Applied Arts and Technology, has made an important contribution to local industry by providing a skilled labour force. It has a history of co-operation with area manufacturers to develop programs specific to their needs. This college also boasts of co-operation programs with the arts, and it works with local theatre groups to provide hands-on training in theatre production and enhance the cultural base of our community, a very integral part of Ontario.

I applaud our commitment to expand the apprenticeship system in this province to include women and other groups who have traditionally found it difficult to participate in these types of programs.

My constituents are pleased with the commitment made by this throne speech to place renewed emphasis on the quality of our children's education, especially in the early school years. The establishment of a select committee on education to increase the consultation process with parents, teachers and school boards is welcomed by parents across this province who wish to take an active role in their children's education. It reflects our open, accessible Ontario government.

Our changing society requires that our educators be provided with the highest-quality resources available to educate our children. I am pleased that this government has made the commitment to assist our school boards and teachers by providing them with the dollars necessary to purchase current textbooks and replace outdated material. It is important that our children have the tools to help them adapt to modern society. Our desire to reduce class sizes in the formative years of our children's education must be recognized as an important step in improving the quality of education in this province.

The development of new software programs and increased availability of computers in the classroom will help our educators prepare our students for the 21st century.

The riding of St. Catharines-Brock, like many other ridings in Ontario, has an important historical flavour. The people of my riding look to the government to help them retain our heritage with innovative programs which will assist them in preserving our past. The Minister of Culture and Communications (Ms. Munro) and the Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Mr. O'Neil) are only too well aware of the importance of preserving the unique flavour of our history in communities across this province. I am

sure they will continue to provide the leadership and programs necessary so that future generations will also enjoy the beauty these historical treasures bring to our province.

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I commend the Minister of Housing (Ms. Hošek) for her initiatives in terms of making affordable housing available to all and I offer my assistance to the honourable minister in the creation of a new, dynamic strategy that encompasses the socioeconomic factors of a feasible housing plan.

Another issue that requires our attention is the development and enhancement of small business programs that are already in place. It is important that we in government ensure that all who want to work can work. Small business has been, and will continue to be, a major source of job creation in Ontario. Especially with those dark clouds of free trade looming over our heads, it is important that we have trump cards to play for Ontario.

I congratulate the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) for bringing forward auto insurance legislation to provide a system to ensure that Ontario consumers receive fair coverage at fair prices. This was an issue of great importance during the recent election and our government in the early days of the Legislature delivered as promised.

The demographics of our society are changing, creating new concerns that this government will need to address. The throne speech outlines new programs that will improve the quality of life for our seniors, the disabled and others in need of specialized services and quality health care. We are aware that the changing demographic patterns create new pressures on transportation systems and housing programs. This government is committed to programs that will improve the quality of life for all the residents of this great province of ours. This government has a vision of Ontario, we believe, that is rich in potential for this province.

The people of St. Catharines-Brock have entrusted me with a grave responsibility, a responsibility that I will work tirelessly towards fulfilling. They have entrusted to this government that same responsibility and I know this government will work diligently towards accomplishing this mandate.

I am proud that the speech from the throne clearly illustrates the commitment we as a Liberal government made to the electorate of Ontario. We promised a new, vital alternative to the old and tired policies that existed before 1985 and I believe that our determination will make it happen.

Mr. Cureatz: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I appreciate my honourable colleague's comments about this being the member's maiden speech, but in his concluding remarks I was hoping he would be a little more specific once again in letting us know where the Premier stands in regard to the wine industry in his part of the riding, about which he has said he is so concerned.

The Deputy Speaker: Please proceed.

Mr. Dietsch: It is with a great deal of pleasure that I stand on this government side and serve with my colleagues to fulfil our goals. I appreciate the opportunity to earn the trust and respect of the people of St. Catharines-Brock.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Would some members like to comment?

Mr. Wildman: I would like to congratulate the member for St. Catharines-Brock on his maiden speech in this House, but I would like it if he could clarify for us what is going to be done by the government to sweep away the dark cloud, as he called it, that is facing the grape producers and the wineries in his area. Since, as we know from the election campaign, the Premier did say that if the six conditions he set forward were not met there would be no deal, could he clarify for us what the government's intentions are with regard to the regulations for wineries in his area to ensure that we will be able to continue to have a grape-growing industry in St. Catharines-Brock?

Mr. Cureatz: Of course, I restrained myself in regard to my interjections so that the honourable member would have an opportunity of responding at the conclusion of his speech.

That being the case, I again would like to follow up with him that indeed he does have a very grave responsibility, representing that area of Ontario that is certainly going to be severely affected under the new trade arrangement with the United States. We, of course, compliment him on his election for that area that was formerly partly represented by a Conservative colleague of mine.

That being the case, we would like to again bring to his attention that he is going to have a difficult row to hoe in terms of supporting his party and his Premier in terms of the vagueness of what the Premier has to say about the free trade agreement, and more particularly the area that is going to be affected, the area represented by the member who has just spoken.

I do not envy the member one bit, because he is going to be saddled by the leadership of his party, by the Premier, with some vague policies in

regard to free trade and the wine industry, and he is going to have to go back home and try to sell it. It is going to be a tough job for him. He is going to be scratching his head, driving back along the Queen Elizabeth Way, wondering how in the world he got himself into this position when he was elected on the basis of the five or six points that the Premier had brought out in regard to free trade, guaranteeing to his constituents that he is going to be looking after the wine industry in his particular area and knowing full well, over the next few weeks when he is driving home, trying to answer to his constituents in his riding office and on radio and in his columns, about the vagueness of the Premier's commitment and how he is doing his darnedest to try to convince him that he has to do more.

I do not envy the member one bit, and I will tell him he has a big job ahead of him. We would like to hear some comments on how he is going to convince the Premier to be a little more specific on what he is going to be doing under his responsibilities about the free trade agreement in protecting the wine industry in southern Ontario.

Mr. Dietsch: I appreciate the questions that have been asked of me today.

Mr. Ferraro: I don't. They stink.

Mr. Cureatz: Go tell the wine growers that.

Mr. Dietsch: Perhaps the honourable member would like to hear my answer.

I appreciate the opportunity to address the House on the honourable gentleman's question. I will say that I do recognize the importance of what the grape-growing industry is going through with free trade. He will no doubt remember some of the Premier's replies in the House when asked the question of what was intending to be done about the free trade agreement. I feel quite confident that the Premier is looking at the agreement, going over it with a fine-toothed comb. When the final legal text of the agreement comes forward for perusal, I am sure the answers will be put forward in a straight, forthright manner.

I feel that I know what my grave responsibilities are. I stand in this House to represent the riding of St. Catharines-Brock and I will do exactly that.

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Speaker, I want to first congratulate you on your elevation to your high office. I know you will carry out your duties with aplomb, and I am sure we will all enjoy your easy and friendly way of applying the rules to the debates in the House and ensuring that all members of the Legislature are able to participate

fully in the debates about the affairs of the province.

I note I have scared away all of my colleagues—

Mr. McLean: And most of ours.

Mr. Cureatz: I can't hear way back there.

1510

Mr. Wildman: I do not know exactly how to take the fact that the member for Durham East (Mr. Cureatz) has crossed the floor and is about to join us on this side of the House.

At any rate, I would like to deal with the throne speech and to put forward some comments on behalf of the people of Algoma in response to this government's proposed agenda for the next session.

At the outset, I am proud to have been re-elected in the riding of Algoma, to represent my friends and neighbours in what is the fourth-largest constituency in this province in terms of geography. I suspect many members do not realize that the distance from one end of Algoma district to the other is approximately the same as that from Sault Ste. Marie to Toronto.

It is a very large area and one that is very diversified in terms of the kinds of communities that must be represented and the concerns that must be put forward on their behalf in this Legislature. I do that with a good deal of pride that I have been re-elected for the fifth time in Algoma and I hope this will be a productive session for them and for the people of the province in general.

While I do not have any members of my own caucus here with me, I am pleased that the member for Durham East has deigned to join me and that we do have, at least for a moment, one of the members of the front bench, on the Treasury bench, present with us this afternoon.

As I came back to the Legislature after the last provincial election I was not certain what kind of throne speech to expect. After all, we have come through a period of a great deal of activity, politically, in this province, the period of the two-year accord signed between the New Democratic Party and the Liberal Party which brought about a change of government in 1985, a period where we were very busy bringing about a number of changes that were long overdue.

Obviously, from our side of the House, we would like to have seen further changes. We were disappointed that all of the reforms that might have been brought about were not achieved in that period, but I was in a way hoping that despite the change in the political configuration of this place we would see a continuation of the

reform agenda that was begun by the new government with the co-operation of my party in the last House. I did not know whether that was going to be the agenda that would be put forward or whether we might see a change in the approach of this government now that it has such a significant majority.

I should say in a spirit of nonpartisanship, Mr. Speaker, as you know I am wont to do from time to time, that I do congratulate the Premier (Mr. Peterson) and his colleagues on their success at the polls. Obviously, from my point of view and from the point of view of our party, it was disappointing. I do welcome the new members of the Legislature and I hope I will get to know them over the next months and years and that we will be able to co-operate on behalf of the people of the province.

I think it is important for the Liberal members in the House to recognize that, while they did gain a significant victory, 75 per cent of the seats in the assembly, in fact 52 per cent of the population voted against them. While this government has an enormous majority and a tremendous mandate to act on behalf of the people of Ontario, they still achieved only a minority support in terms of popular vote.

There is no question that seats counts; I recognize that. But it is important, and I think it is a risk the experienced members of the House will attest to, that a government which has such a majority does run the risk of forgetting it did not get 75 per cent of the vote as well as 75 per cent of the seats.

I did not know what to expect when His Honour the Lieutenant Governor sat down to deliver the address I know he spent many hours composing himself—

Mr. Reville: That is not how it is done.

Mr. Wildman: That is not the way it works?

Mr. Reville: No. It does not work that way.

Mr. Wildman: Oh. I thought after 12 years that perhaps that was the way it worked.

At any rate, I did not know what to expect. I did not know whether we would see a new dynamism on behalf of the government to continue the reform agenda or whether we would see a government that perhaps might be tempted, because of its success in September, to rest on its laurels, a party that might be satisfied to say: "OK, we have a period of activity, of change; maybe it is time to pull back a bit."

I heard the speech delivered by His Honour and I must say I was—I suppose not surprisingly for the members opposite—disappointed. I did hope, as I said, that it would be a continuation,

but I thought maybe that is just my bias. Obviously, I am not a member of that party; I do not see things the way it does. Maybe it is just I who expected more, and maybe it is just the fact that I am a member of the opposition and want to be critical that I did not find the speech as stimulating as some members opposite seem to find it.

So I thought that perhaps I should consult the public press, the media, that their assessment of the speech would help to give me a more balanced view, one that I could present on behalf not only of the 61 per cent of the voters who voted for me in the last election but also of that other 39 per cent who chose to support one of the other two political parties. I did consult the press widely, I must say, across the province.

I picked out a couple of comments, and I would just like to refer to one. This is from *The Standard of St. Catharines*. It is an editorial written on November 5, entitled "Peterson at Rest."

Interjection.

Mr. Wildman: Perhaps it is a Tory journal; I am not sure. The member for St. Catharines-Brock (Mr. Dietsch) would probably be able to indicate to us. I think the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley) has on occasion commented on this periodical and how close he is to the editorial board. I am sure he discussed their view of the speech from the throne with them and helped them come up with this title, "Peterson at Rest."

At any rate, it does say as follows:

"Tuesday's throne speech was as dull as dishwater. Having come to power two years ago by kind permission of the New Democratic Party, Premier Peterson now appears to be resting on his laurels. At long last able to do whatever he wants to do, Peterson seems unable to think of anything that might excite the imagination.

"During the election campaign there were comparisons between Peterson and former Conservative Premier Bill Davis, who proved during the early part of his tenure that bland works. Having achieved his whopping majority with Liberals filling 95 of the 130 seats, Peterson appears set to justify those comparisons."

I want to point out that this is not a New Democratic Party periodical. I tried to go to one that I knew would not ever be accused of parroting the socialist line. I thought that perhaps by choosing a periodical of the high standard of the *St. Catharines Standard* I would find one with an unbiased view, and I am sure we would all

have to ponder carefully the comment that the throne speech was as dull as dishwater and that the Premier appears to have decided to follow the example of his predecessor once removed, Mr. Davis, in the idea of following the phrase "bland works," because this in fact was a bland throne speech. In comparison to the throne speeches of the period of the accord, it really was disappointing, in my view, and that editorial certainly does bear that out.

1520

I do not want to bore the House with other editorials, but I would like to deal specifically with some of the comments in the throne speech. In a serious vein, I was interested in the comments in the throne speech about the economy of this province. At one point it states, "Ontario's economy is fundamentally strong and diversified." That probably is true in the sense of the boom we are experiencing in the Metropolitan Toronto area. There is an enormous expansion of economic activity in this area, but I think everyone here will admit that is not the case across the province. We have serious regional disparities.

To be fair, in the throne speech the government does recognize that there are regional disparities. It says there is a need for economic development in eastern and northern Ontario. It even says there is a need for growth and development in northern Ontario. It says that growth and development in our part of the province requires "ongoing attention."

I am not sure what "ongoing attention" means. It certainly is better than being ignored, but I do not know whether it means the kind of thing the member for St. Catharines-Brock said in response to the questions about the Premier's approach to free trade and protecting the grape growers and the wine industry. What he said was that the Premier would continue to look at it. I think that was the sum total of his response. I suppose that is some comfort, but it is not much of a comfort if all the government is going to do is to give it attention. It is a first step, but that is all it is, just a first step.

There were a couple of things that were mentioned in the throne speech specifically related to the needs of northern Ontario. For one thing, the government said it was going to introduce a buy-north program. We do not know the details of that, but it does sound as if it might in some way reflect an attempt by this government to deal with the need for import replacement. If that is what they are attempting, then they have our support. I am not sure though,

particularly in regard to the comments in the throne speech about the need to assist exporters to expand their markets.

It seems to us on this side of the House that there is a tremendous opportunity to provide jobs by replacing some of the imports we now use by producing those products ourselves. I refer specifically to northern Ontario, where we are the third largest mining economy in the world, and yet we are the number one importer of mining machinery in the world.

In the previous government, the Minister of Northern Development and Mines, as he was called before his unfortunate brush with conflict of interest, was kind enough to appoint me and my colleague the member for Carleton East (Mr. Morin), along with the former member for Rainy River, to a committee of business and labour people looking at the needs of northern Ontario. One of the opportunities we had, at the minister's insistence, was to travel to Sweden. I think the member for Carleton East would agree with me that this was one of the most stimulating and interesting periods during our work on that committee.

We visited a small community called Kiruna, which is north of the Arctic Circle, about 1,000 kilometres north of Stockholm.

Mr. Ballinger: I thought you guys did not make any trips last year.

Mr. Wildman: This was not a parliamentary committee, actually. I think it was much to the chagrin of the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) that we went on this committee. This was extraparliamentary. There were parliamentarians on the committee, but it was also made up of business people and labour people, so we were somehow exempt from the rule set by the Treasurer that no parliamentary committee could travel overseas. I do not know what that means but I think it was salt water we were not allowed to travel over, and we were able to travel across salt water to Sweden.

Anyway, we met a number of people in Kiruna, which is an iron ore mining town. It is underground mining, one of the few underground mines. I think the only one in North America that produces iron ore is in Wawa. Kiruna is very similar to that. The thing we found there that was very interesting was that they have a company called Kiruna Truck that produces underground heavy equipment like scoop trams.

Here we are north of the Arctic circle in Sweden and those scoop trams are used in Sudbury and Elliot Lake in northern Ontario. They export them from Sweden to northern

Ontario. This is a tribute to the tenacity of that company and to the entrepreneur who has worked for a long time to develop that company, but it also points to the inability of the mining companies, business and government in Ontario to ensure that those kinds of products are produced here so that those kinds of machines could be used by our mining industry rather than importing them from Sweden.

Obviously, we also have a tremendous opportunity in producing machinery for the forestry industry and for the pulp and paper industry. While we were in Sweden, I did not have the opportunity to do it, but the member for Carleton East did: he went to a small community where they produce scarifiers. This company—I think it only employed somewhere around nine or 10 people—produces all the scarifiers that are used in the world market. We import those scarifiers to Thunder Bay and northwestern Ontario.

For those members who may not know what a scarifier is, it is the machine that is used to work up the ground after there has been a cutover, after the area has been cut. It is sort of like a harrow in farming, a disc or a harrow, to dig up the ground, to loosen it up to make it possible for planting to take place.

Mr. McCague: Where do you farm?

An hon. member: We thought it was an NDP critic.

Mr. Wildman: We have been known at some times to use the—at any rate, it seemed to me very strange that a company in a very small community near Ostersund in Sweden would be producing these kinds of machines that are imported to northwestern Ontario and used there when the most interesting part of this is that the original design for those scarifiers came from northern Ontario. The technology was developed here and the entrepreneur, the company in Sweden, imported that technology, developed it further and now is exporting that machinery to northern Ontario.

It is a fact that is ignored by many members of the House and the general public in Ontario that the largest employer in this province is the forestry and pulp and paper industry. Directly and indirectly, that industry employs more people than any other industry, including the auto industry, in Ontario. We import a tremendous amount of machinery. Again, we could be manufacturing those machines in northern Ontario to provide the linkages to the resource-based industry we have, and there was nothing in the throne speech about that. There was a reference to buying north, but there was no reference to

stimulating that kind of economic activity in our part of the province.

It is imperative that we respond to the needs of the north. The people of northern Ontario are known for their self-reliance, their creativity and their commitment to their part of the province. We have the human resources we need, even though it is a little less than one tenth of the population and covering something like 90 per cent of the geographic area of the province. We have the human resources, but what is needed is a government commitment to provide those people with the capital and the assistance that are necessary to diversify the economy of our part of the province.

1530

Mr. Speaker, as you will know, unemployment in northern Ontario currently is running at more than twice the provincial average. So while we have a boom in Metropolitan Toronto, there is anything but a boom taking place in northern Ontario. We have not really recovered from the recession of 1982 as yet. Certainly things are not as bad as they were—and we are all thankful for that—but we still remain very vulnerable.

We could in fact face another recession in the not-too-distant future. The developments on the stock market and the inability of the Americans to get hold of their economic situation do not bode well for the resource industries that are so dependent on exports to the United States, so we are very vulnerable.

There were a couple of other comments in the throne speech about northern Ontario. There was a statement that the government would be appointing a council to oversee and direct the expenditures under the northern Ontario heritage fund. Some of us on this side of the House have treated the northern Ontario heritage fund, as proposed by the Liberal government, as a bit of a joke, a sad joke. I think the members opposite could understand that if they knew something of the background of this fund.

Members of our caucus have been campaigning hard since the late 1970s for the establishment of a fund similar to the fund that has been set up in Alberta, that would use some of the revenue from the extraction of the resources from northern Ontario, some of the government revenue, return it to the north to set up a fund which then could be used to assist entrepreneurs; to invest, to give loans, to invest in joint ventures and directly to diversify the economy of northern Ontario. We saw this kind of fund as being developed along the same lines as the Alberta heritage fund, in proportion to the size of the

population and the revenue coming from our resources.

The Treasurer admitted in this House some time ago that in fact a lot more revenue comes to the government from our resources than is returned to the north. So we expected that when there was a statement finally from the government that it was going to set up a fund, we would be getting one that was substantial, one that would provide the kind of capital that is needed to develop the resources of northern Ontario, and not just to develop those resources but also to diversify the economy.

So what did we get after last spring's budget? We got \$30 million. Thirty million dollars is peanuts, and it is a bit of a sick joke. I suppose to the ordinary individual, the ordinary family in this province, \$30 million is a lot of money. It certainly is a great deal compared to what most people ever will earn in their whole lifetime, but it is not very much when you compare it to the total budget of this government, or even to the expenditures of this government on a few programs in southern Ontario.

Thirty million dollars: it is just a trifling amount when you consider that at the same time, in that same budget, about \$50 million was allocated for the setting up of one plant in Cambridge—\$50 million for one project, \$20 million more than the total amount for all of northern Ontario. I am not opposed to the investment of the funds to stimulate employment in Cambridge, obviously—not at all—but I think the comparison shows the kind of inadequate commitment of this government to northern development.

It is also interesting that \$30 million is approximately the same amount that the government has budgeted as its share for the one project in Metropolitan Toronto, the big sexy project, the SkyDome. So we are getting for all of northern Ontario, the whole area, the same amount of money that the government is sinking into one hole in downtown Toronto. Perhaps the Argos are a higher priority—something has to help them—than diversification in northern Ontario, but I do not think so.

Anyway, we got this fund. We said it was not enough, but it is there. So we now have the announcement in this throne speech that there is going to be a council that is going to deal with the fund. Mr. Speaker, I ask you, what has happened to that fund since the spring? The answer is nothing. None of that money has been allocated. None of the small amount that has been set forward there has even gotten into the hands of

entrepreneurs or other groups that want to develop businesses and jobs in northern Ontario.

The reason, partly, is that the government has not as yet even developed the criteria for the allocation of the funds, six months later. First, we do not get enough money and then we do not get any allocation and, only six months later, we get a council that is going to deal with the fund. I think that says a lot about the lack of commitment on the part of this government to northern Ontario.

I have talked about diversification in our part of the province. Obviously, we cannot remain completely dependent on the extraction and exporting of our raw materials, because every time we export ore or raw logs or semi-processed products from northern Ontario, we are exporting jobs. We have been doing that since the north was first opened up, and nothing has changed with this government and nothing in the throne speech has changed.

Frankly, I will say this, and I say it sincerely, I regret the personal comment made about my good friend the member for Cochrane North (Mr. Fontaine) in the House today. I think it was meant in a jocular way and I regret that comment, but I must say I am disappointed that the member has not been more effective. I think he genuinely wants to change things. He is not another *empereur du Nord*, like Mr. Bernier; but I do not think he has the effect in cabinet to do it, and I regret that.

It is our position as New Democrats that there should have been a commitment on the part of the government to actually change the way things happen in northern Ontario, not just to continue exporting our resources and jobs and then to throw money back at the problem, giving small grants here and there to municipalities, to entrepreneurs and companies to try to ameliorate the problem.

That has been the history of northern development right from the outset. It certainly was brought almost to the state of an art by Leo Bernier. If the Liberals across the way or the group adjacent feel a little uncomfortable about having themselves compared to Leo Bernier, and I hope they do, I say that the government has the opportunity to change things in northern Ontario, and there is nothing in the throne speech that indicates it is going to do that.

We have suggested that the government should enter into resource planning agreements with the communities so that, when a company wants to develop an ore body or to get involved in logging or in forestry operations, in fact it enter

into an agreement, a five-year plan, with the government and the community so that everybody involved knows the kind of infrastructure the community is going to require, knows the plans of the company and is committed to the ongoing expansion of the community. But there is nothing in the throne speech of any kind like that.

There is not even any mention in the throne speech about reforestation programs. Those of us who have been working in northern Ontario for some time will know that under the previous government, historically, only about one third of the cutover areas in northern Ontario were regenerated. Another third was supposed to regenerate itself and another third was left barren.

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It is true that the previous government, in the last couple of years before its demise, set up the forest management agreements to try to get the industry involved in replanting the forests. Those forest management agreements deal only with the cutover areas that are happening now; they do not deal with the backlog, and there is a tremendous backlog, to the point where the member for Cochrane North, the Minister of Northern Development, would admit that in the Hearst area in 10 years we may be short of timber. Already in the Chapleau area there is not enough timber to support the number of mills.

Timber is being transported many, many miles to mills now because we have had a history of cut it out and get out. I am talking about this as if it were a problem, but frankly I consider it a great opportunity and a challenge that we must meet. I think we could produce a tremendous number of jobs in our reforestation program. As a member of the opposition, I hope that what I am saying is not falling on deaf ears the way it did with the previous government.

My colleague the member for Sudbury East (Miss Martel) would certainly agree with me that one of the ways we could be producing jobs and employment in northern Ontario is to ensure that we refine the ores that we dig out of the ground in northern Ontario in our province. The previous government continued the situation where companies such as Falconbridge export the ore for refining to Norway. This government likes to think of itself as a government of reform and change. Was there any comment, any reference at all to that in the throne speech? Are we going to change the regulations to require that the regulations in the Mining Act are followed, that

companies that mine in the north refine in the north, or even in Ontario at all?

We have had a lot of comments from the Liberal back-benchers making their contributions.

Mr. Ballinger: The member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh) is a man with vision.

Mr. Wildman: Oh, I have driven him across the way already. We have heard from members of the Liberal Party in the throne speech debate. They have listed things the government has done or promised for northern Ontario, and that is normally what government members do in a throne speech debate. That is not unusual. It is not surprising, but I am surprised that they would in fact raise things such as the amount of money the government is going to spend on roads in northern Ontario.

The government, when it announced in the budget last spring that it was going to budget an additional \$26 million for roads in northern Ontario this year, was a little taken aback when we said that was a pittance. The reason we said it was a pittance was that an official of the Ministry of Transportation informed us that it cost \$1 million to build one mile of new highway in northern Ontario and up to \$2 million if rock has to be moved. Anybody that knows anything about the topography of northern Ontario understands that we have a lot of rock. It costs a great deal to build roads. For \$26 million what do we get? I guess we get 13 miles of road, or maybe, at the most, 20 to 26 miles of road. I thought perhaps this was one of the government's commitments to tourism in northern Ontario, that it was going to build one section of good road in northern Ontario somewhere. I do not know where. I suppose it would then advertise in Ontario North Now and through their Ministry of Tourism and Recreation programs and say, "Come and travel on this portion of road; see what a good road is really like," because \$26 million is not going to do anything for the construction of roads in northern Ontario. There is a tremendous backlog.

One of the problems we have, I will admit, is that the previous government, through its restraint program from 1976 on, I guess, did not budget enough money to maintain the roads, much less expand the highway network that we have in northern Ontario.

We were told by the officials of the ministry that they must renew or upgrade about seven per cent of the Ontario highway system each year in order just to maintain it, but since 1976 the government has been maintaining only between

three and four per cent of the highway system in this province each year. That means each year there was about a three per cent compounded backlog developing of roads that needed to be upgraded. So it is a problem for this government to respond to that need, but \$26 million was not going to do anything about it, much less the promise that was made at the time that this would mean we would in fact see the four-laning of the Trans-Canada Highway in northern Ontario.

The Minister of Transportation (Mr. Fulton) and the federal Minister of Transport have been playing sort of an Abbott and Costello act about funding of the four-laning of Highway 17 through northern Ontario. It is sort of the "Who's on first?" act. The Minister of Transportation says he asked Mr. Crosbie for \$2.7 billion to assist in upgrading Highway 17. Mr. Crosbie has informed us that he stated in a letter to my federal colleague, the member for Kenora-Rainy River, Mr. Parry, the following:

"As no large-scale improvement program for the Trans-Canada Highway has been initiated by the provincial government, nor have any relevant official representations been received by the federal authorities, I cannot envisage any federal involvement in the project."

I do not know what that means. I suspect it means that if the Minister of Transportation did make any representations to Mr. Crosbie, Mr. Crosbie did not consider them relevant, or maybe he did not consider the minister relevant. Either that or it means Mr. Crosbie thought the request for \$2.6 billion or \$2.7 billion, whatever it was, was frivolous and not serious.

At any rate, I think this is a bit much for the Minister of Transportation to go around saying he asked for the federal government for money and it said no; and have the federal government, on the other hand, say, "Well, we haven't had any serious requests; there's no project planned and we're not going to get involved."

The fact of the matter is that we have a road system which is not up to standard, and that makes it even more difficult for us to develop northern Ontario economically.

I welcome the acceleration of some road projects in the throne speech. Highway 129 in my riding is supposed to be upgraded at a faster pace than was originally planned, and I welcome that, but it is important to recognize that there are hundreds of millions of dollars committed by this government for upgrading roads in Metropolitan Toronto and very, very little for roads in the north.

We all recognize that there is a tremendous traffic problem in southern Ontario, particularly in Metropolitan Toronto, and there needs to be assistance for roads in this area. But there is no commitment on the part of this government to four-laning Highway 17 through northern Ontario. The fact of the matter is that once you get past Kenora and across the Manitoba border, you are driving on a very good road, a four-lane highway; and as soon as you hit Ontario, you are headed back into the bush, you are on a bush road.

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There are a number of other things that have to be responded to in northern Ontario. We all have recognized in this House, I think, that there is a serious shortage in northern Ontario of medical services, which are taken for granted in the rest of the province. We have a shortage of medical practitioners and therapists in northern Ontario.

I recognize that in the election campaign the Premier promised more bursaries for therapists who might be prepared to go and practise in northern Ontario. I think the Premier's heart is in the right place in that proposal, but the fact is, regrettably, it will not work. That is a continuation again of the same kind of approaches that were taken by the Conservatives in trying to attract professionals into northern Ontario, and it does not work.

The main reason it does not work is that medical professionals and therapists do not choose to practise in northern Ontario, not so much because of income or assistance for education but because they feel cut off from their colleagues in their own fields and they do not have the same kind of contact with new developments.

The only way we are going to resolve this is if we again follow the example that we saw in Sweden and if the government bucks the educational system and the medical profession and says it is going to establish a medical school in northern Ontario and training facilities for therapists in the north, so that we can train more northerners in the north and find that most of them will practise in the north after they graduate. They will be close to new research developments and teaching facilities in their areas. They will not feel as isolated and will be able to practise in the north.

It will cost a good deal of money, but if a province like Saskatchewan can afford to have a major university medical school and training facilities for therapists in its small province, an area of our province which has approximately the

same population as Saskatchewan could, in fact, support the same, if this government was prepared to do it. There was no comment at all about that in the throne speech.

There is a comment in the throne speech that there is an effort by the government to have more services for the elderly to assist them to stay in their own homes, and I welcome that. There was a pilot project in my part of the province on that over the last couple of years that has proved very successful. I want to emphasize, though, that while we support that initiative, it cannot in any way inhibit the development of the EldCap program in northern Ontario. Specifically, in my area, there have been applications from Wawa, Hornepayne and Blind River.

The previous government announced that program and then sat on it and did not do anything. Nothing happened. I think there were 12 applications and none of them were approved; just nothing happened. Leo Bernier went around talking about it, and it was basically a lot of hot air because it did not mean anything. I suppose it might have been delivered if Leo could have ridden a fire truck into town with the siren blazing and the light going. Then it would have come about, but it did not.

When we got this change of government, one of the first things we as New Democrats put in the negotiation of the accord was the EldCap program, and the government said, "Yes, we are going to act on it." Initially, they did go around, they accepted applications, they asked for consultants' reports and so on, but the fact remains that as yet we still do not have any of those facilities and no comment about them in the throne speech.

Obviously, a lot of the comments I made about northern Ontario economy relate to what is seen as a major issue before us, and that is free trade. In the throne speech the government reiterates its concerns about the proposed Mulroney trade agreement. It states that we have not seen the final text and so we cannot comment on it. It says that the Liberal government in Ontario believes that the federal Conservatives have given up more than they have gained in these negotiations. It says, and I agree, that this proposed agreement does not ensure access to US markets and it states that Canadian products are not shielded from US restrictive practices.

All of those statements are quite true, but what is missing in the throne speech is a statement of what this government is going to do to live up to the commitment made by the Premier during the election campaign that there would be no deal

unless the conditions set forward by the Premier were met.

The proponents of a free trade agreement with the United States have been selling it in northern Ontario on the basis that we need a binding trade dispute settlement mechanism that would get us out of the situation of having to continue to fight countervailing actions by United States industries and antidumping legislation in the United States.

What this agreement apparently sets forward is some kind of panel that will be the final appeal body. You would be able to go to this panel rather than to the courts to deal with trade disputes. That is an improvement, but it is not the kind of binding dispute settlement mechanism that the proponents said we needed. Even the president of the Interprovincial Steel and Pipe Corp., the Saskatchewan steel producer, has stated that this agreement does not protect us from antidumping measures in the United States.

Such a dispute settlement mechanism was one of the six conditions set forward by the Premier in the election campaign. The panel does not do that. All the panel does is review any decision that is taken, for instance, a countervail duty that is imposed, on the basis of trying to determine whether it is in accordance with US law; or on the other hand, if it is an American who is appealing, whether a countervail done by the Canadian government is in accordance with Canadian law. It does not exempt us from the full application of American trade law. Even from the point of view of the proponents of freer trade, I do not see how anyone can support this deal.

What did the throne speech say this government was going to do about it? In the throne speech it was stated that the Premier would introduce a resolution in the House, once the final text is brought forward, that the matter would be referred to a committee of the House. In my view, that does not do very much. It certainly does not assist the softwood lumber operators who are having to deal with the 15 per cent tax on their exports.

Again, I thought perhaps I was being too harsh with the Premier. I listened to what he said during the election campaign and I thought that just because I am opposed to free trade—and I do not think it will help this province, in fact it will mean the loss of a lot of jobs—perhaps I was being unfair and that I should consult again with some unbiased media people to see what they had to say about the agreement.

I have an editorial from the *Ottawa Citizen*. I do not know what the political stripe of the

Ottawa Citizen is, but it is certainly not a New Democratic Party periodical. On occasion, it has been known to support the Liberal Party, and on other occasions it has been known to support the Conservative Party. At any rate, I thought that, being in touch with the national scene as an *Ottawa* periodical would be, it would be a good one to consult about the proposed trade agreement Mulroney has signed with Reagan.

Mr. Ballinger: No one told us this was going to be a filibuster.

Mr. Wildman: I am just winding down, but I have lots more if you like.

The *Ottawa Citizen* says: "The throne speech merely repeated Peterson's concerns about the free trade deal signed last month. He believes Canada has given up more than it has gained, that security of access to the US market is not guaranteed, that Canadian exporters are not protected from restrictive US trade practices.

"However, the brief, seven-paragraph reference to free trade in the 28-page speech only hinted at what the Liberal government might do to block a deal that it considers to be disastrous for the province. Nowhere in the speech, for example, does the government indicate it might try to block the free trade deal, possibly by refusing to implement those elements of the package that fall within provincial jurisdiction."

It is too bad the member for St. Catharines-Brock did not respond to that criticism in his presentation, particularly as it relates to the grape growers.

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It is most disappointing that in the throne speech the government did not make clear what its "bottom line" really is on free trade. During the election campaign the Premier seemed to make it very clear that there would be no deal unless certain conditions were met, and now he seems to have moved his bottom line to the point of saying there will be a debate on free trade because these conditions were not met, but not that the deal would be blocked by Ontario.

He has even indicated that he does not know how the deal might be blocked by Ontario. He never said that in the election campaign. He never went to the people of this province and said: "We are concerned about this deal as proposed by Mulroney. We do not think it will be good for Ontario. We think it will mean a loss of jobs in this province, but we do not know what we can do about it." That is not what he said to the people of this province. He said, "There will be no deal." That is what is so alarming about this government.

Mr. D. R. Cooke: How would you block it?

Mr. Wildman: We hear one of the supporters of the Treasury bench, the member for Kitchener (Mr. D. R. Cooke) saying, how would I block it? I did not go to the people of Algoma and say, "If you elect a New Democratic Party government in Ontario, there will be no deal." In fact, what I said was: "I am very concerned about this deal and what it may mean for jobs in this province and I am opposed to it. I do not think this Premier or this government should have agreed to the negotiations and if this government has a veto, the government should exercise it."

I also said that I thought the federal government should call an election on the issue before it is implemented and that if it was confident the people of this country were in favour of free trade, it should go to the electorate and fight an election on free trade. That is what I said.

But no, the Liberals said: "Vote for the Liberals and there will be no deal if it is not good enough for Ontario. There will be no deal." That is what they said. Now they are saying, "What can we do about it?" Frankly, that was phoney. It was a phoney campaign. They did not say: "We are concerned. We do not think this is a good deal. We are opposed to what Mr. Mulroney is doing but we do not know what we as a provincial government might be able to do about it." No, the Premier said there would be no deal. Well, that is phoney.

I also want to consult with another unbiased media outlet. In this case I went to one that I am sure the members would all agree does not support my party. This is Lorrie Goldstein of the Toronto Sun. He says in an editorial that was written in early November, this month, in the Toronto Sun:

"Peterson, after all, repeatedly asked for a strong mandate from Ontario voters so he could scuttle the deal"—that is the free trade deal—"if it was bad for Ontario.

"Now, having received that mandate and decided that it"—the deal—"is bad, he has abandoned that posture, saying that while he's against free trade he can't stop it and doesn't want to lead the fight against it.

"Thus, Peterson is clearly no longer saying what he said during the election on free trade."

I think that sums up this government's position. It said, "Vote for us and we will stop free trade." After the people voted for them, they said: "We are not sure if we can stop it. We are concerned about it and we are going to continue the debate but we are not even going to debate outside of this province. We do not want to lead a

fight against the federal government in this debate."

The one other area I want to refer to before I close is agriculture. As members will know, in my constituency we have a number of dairy producers, sheep producers and also pork producers who are very concerned about free trade. The pork producers are thinking that perhaps it might not be bad for them, but they are not sure. The dairy producers are very worried. They think that it is not as bad as it might have been because there appears to be protection of supply management in the agreement, but they are very concerned about import quotas and what it might mean for products such as ice cream and yoghurt. So there is a good deal of confusion on their part.

I do not think that is too surprising because the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell) himself is rather confused. I heard a speech he gave in which he stated that perhaps we could have free trade or maybe not. That was the sum total of his speech, sort of like the Mackenzie King approach to politics: free trade, if necessary, but not necessarily free trade. It is certainly the case that in this throne speech, agriculture in general was given a very low priority. All we have is a motherhood statement that the government will continue to use innovative approaches for assisting Ontario farmers, and that is it. That is all it says about agriculture in the whole 28-page speech.

Mr. Ballinger: The record speaks for itself.

Mr. Wildman: Let us look at the record. This government only spends 1.4 per cent of the total budget on agriculture. That is the lowest of any provincial jurisdiction in this country. We face a crisis of foreclosures in the agricultural sector. More than 1 million acres have gone out of production in the last 10 years. That is 275 acres a day. The Ontario farm debt has increased from just under \$1 million to over \$5 billion over the last 20 years. Right now, servicing farm debt eats up about half of the farmer's net income. Farmers in Ontario today face a 50-50 chance of having to go before the Farm Debt Review Board in the next year. Over the last nine years, the average net income of farmers has declined by 30 per cent in real terms.

There is no program in Ontario for long-term interest for farmers. The Ontario family farm interest rate reduction program is of some assistance. It is a good program but it does not meet the need. I am sure that my friend the member for Essex-Kent (Mr. McGuigan) would agree with the position that we are in a very serious situation in terms of agriculture and the

preservation of the primary industry in this province. I regret that the government chose not to make any commitment in the throne speech to resolving those problems. For too long in Ontario, we have said, "It is up to the federal government, in conjunction with the other provinces, to act." We cannot continue to pass the buck to the federal government; we must act on our own.

I do not think that this throne speech indicated a commitment on the part of the government to respond to the needs of northern Ontario. I do not think it indicated a commitment on the part of the government to protect Ontario from the Mulroney deal with Reagan. I do not think there was any attempt in the throne speech to respond to the serious needs that the agricultural communities face in this province. For that reason, I find the throne speech very disappointing.

At the outset, I said I did not know what to expect when we came in for His Honour's speech. I did not know whether we were going to see a continuation of the dynamic reform program that was initiated after the change of government as a result of the accord between the Liberals and the New Democrats or whether we were going to see a government that was prepared to rest on its laurels, perhaps return to the small-c conservative approach of the previous government, the "bland works" approach. Unfortunately, it appears that is what we have seen. There is no commitment to change in responding to the serious needs of those parts of Ontario that are not experiencing the same boom in the economy that we see in Metropolitan Toronto. Instead, we have a government that seems self-satisfied and complacent. I regret that.

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I hope the new members of the House elected in September will do all they can to ensure that this government responds to the needs of their constituents and the province as a whole, rather than sitting back, simply listing a number of programs and saying, "Look at all the wonderful things we have done," and ignoring the serious problems; rather than meeting the challenge and making it possible to use the great potential in human and economic terms that we have in Ontario to build a better province for all of the people of this great part of Canada.

Mr. Villeneuve: The member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman) quite obviously is very interested in what is happening and what did not happen in this speech from the throne. I was somewhat amazed that he mentioned that pork producers

were not sure where they stood on free trade. I must tell him that the pork producers in the great riding that I represent know where they stand on free trade.

I would also like to question the member for Algoma regarding beef producers. I know beef is a very important industry in northwestern Ontario and I am sure he has a number of cow/calf producers. I would like him to comment on what their reaction may be to the prospects of free trade—a free trade agreement as being proposed.

There was a question to the Minister of Agriculture and Food yesterday regarding the very strong possibility that tariffs would be imposed on imported yoghurt and ice cream. If that indeed occurs or historical situations are put into place where there would not be any more yoghurt or ice cream coming in from the United States as there has traditionally been, I believe, with all due respect, that the status quo as we have known will then be a thing of the past.

We are facing the realities of 600 protectionist bills by the United States in the omnibus bill that is coming forth. We need to remind our friends at the federal level, the Minister of Agriculture for Canada and many in the federal cabinet, that we must work together towards reinforcing this agreement and not be subject to this omnibus bill that would be very detrimental, not only to the basic producers. Northern Ontario would benefit from a free trade agreement outside of agriculture, and I believe agriculture, for the people the member represents, would be benefited.

Mr. McGuigan: I am commenting because the member for Algoma generously mentioned me in his speech, and I thank him for that.

He forgot to mention that this government increased the agricultural budget by 72 per cent, somewhat over half a billion dollars. While the percentage holds fairly constant, or it is better than it was, it is because the economy in general has been rising at such a rate. When we take a look at it in absolute dollars, this government has committed more money to agriculture in two years, an increase in two years, than any other government on record.

Mr. Villeneuve: How much has income gone down?

Mr. McGuigan: I will come to that.

There are some hopeful signs. I will mention that they are small signs, but there are some hopeful signs. One is that the GATT people have now agreed to take a look at subsidies. The United States has said it is aiming by the end of the century to try to reduce those subsidies to zero. I do not expect that is going to happen.

Knowing politics in various countries, I think it is not liable to happen. Nevertheless, there are some moves towards that.

Just to give an example of the distortions that there are in agriculture, in the European Community countries, for the energy component in feeding their chickens, instead of feeding them the barley they raise in Europe—and they raise some corn there—they feed them tapioca, which they bring in from Thailand. Can you imagine such a distortion? A product that is produced by hand labour in Thailand is brought into the EC to feed the chickens.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. McGuigan: What are you saying, sir?

The Deputy Speaker: Your time is up, sir. I am sorry.

Mr. Wildman: I thank the members for their comments and questions. In response to my friend from the united counties, I did not say that the pork producers were unsure. What I said generally is that members of the farm community, as well as other members of the community as a whole, are confused about free trade, and that while the pork producers think they would benefit—

Mr. Villeneuve: You are not part of the confusion?

Mr. Wildman: I am, frankly. I am confused about this government's approach. The pork producers generally are in favour of the free trade agreement, as are, I think, the beef producers. But they are concerned about what this may mean in the long run. That goes for the dairy producers as well. That is basically what I meant to say.

I think it is important to recognize, though, that even if the free trade agreement is ratified, it will not protect Canada, the farmers or anyone from the omnibus trade bill that is being introduced in the Congress of the United States. In fact, the agreement does not come into effect until 1989; so all of the protectionist measures that are passed between now and then will have effect and the so-called agreement between Mulroney and Reagan will not protect us at all. The member should not try to tell us that we will be protected from the omnibus bill by this agreement. We will not be.

In response to my friend the member for Essex-Kent, it is true that this government has increased the total dollars spent on agriculture. I applaud that, but the fact remains that we still are the lowest provincial jurisdiction in Canada in terms of the percentage of our budget that we spend on agriculture. That is most regrettable. I

think this province, which is supposed to be the richest in this country, should be able to support its agricultural community at a far greater level than 1.4 per cent of the total provincial budget. I think it is shameful that there is nothing more than a motherhood comment in the throne speech about agriculture.

Mrs. Marland: At the outset, I think it is certainly worth noting that in the House at this moment we have one member of the cabinet; the Minister of Correctional Services (Mr. Ramsay) is here. We now have 13 members present in total, which is really significant now that we have 95 Liberal members.

Mr. Villeneuve: There are some over here, the rump.

Mrs. Marland: Oh, I am sorry. I forgot the rump to my left. With respect, I add five more members. That would give us 18 members present out of 95. Perhaps that is an indication of the commitment of these members to their own throne speech. Certainly, we will take great regard for that indication.

I think it is unfortunate that no other cabinet member but the Minister of Correctional Services is present. That is significant in the light of the fact that sometimes, when we have these debates, there are ongoing meetings of committees that conflict with our time here in the House. Today that is not the reason, since there are no committees meeting today. I think that is a significant note.

We certainly were very well aware during the recent campaign that one of the major priorities for the Liberal Party in Ontario was education. When I saw what their announcements were and where they were stepping up their priorities, I thought that was a very interesting statement, if it was a statement of the change in their commitment to education in Ontario.

However, in rising today to speak in response to this most recent throne speech, I may say that in the last two and a half years I have had the privilege of rising to speak in response now to four throne speeches. In fact, in order to do that, I could probably just as well have brought into the House today the comments from my first response to their first throne speech. That is interesting, because it was their first throne speech in how many years did we hear over and over again?—in 42 years. This was the great new opportunity for Ontario.

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I want to say I am very disappointed that this great new opportunity for Ontario simply has not

materialized for those people who supported the Liberal Party. It must be a tremendous disappointment for those people who, in supporting the Liberal Party in this election particularly, thought that it was going to be something new, innovative and certainly would respond to the needs of the people of this province.

In dealing with the priority of education, we have to look in reality at the fact that this throne speech does not address or meet the needs for education in this province. We heard a great deal about the reduction of class size. In the region of Peel, the average class size is 25; so the big announcement to reduce the class sizes in two grades only, grades 1 and 2, when in Peel the average class size in elementary school is already 25, did not bear any relevance or have any impact on the people whom I represent.

If they are going to talk about reducing class size, we had better know where those classes are going to be in the physical sense. I have very many parents of children in both the public system and the separate school system in the region of Peel who would willingly say: "Just give me a class or just give me a room. Just give me something other than a portable for my children."

When you look at that issue of portables in the Dufferin-Peel board in particular, I think they now have in excess of 400 portables in the region of Peel and Dufferin county. That is not a satisfactory service. That is not a satisfactory approach to providing education for the children today in this wealthy province. It is very clear that education is underfunded in Ontario, and it is still going to be underfunded after the statements that have been made in this throne speech.

If you go back to a previous election and look again very closely at the promises made by the Liberals at that time, and certainly by the Premier (Mr. Peterson) himself, the Liberal Party in 1985 promised that it would restore the 60 per cent funding for education. That was two and a half years ago. Is it not interesting that four throne speeches later we are not experiencing an increase in the percentage of provincial funding for education, but we are experiencing a decrease? It is very sad, and it is particularly sad in the region of Peel because, quite honestly, that equation in the region of Peel drops down to 27 per cent from the province.

The people whom I represent are very concerned about that because the cost of education has increased, naturally, and where the tax base is the source for funding education, we certainly are looking in Mississauga and the

region of Peel at paying almost 75 cents on the dollar in property taxes for education.

I have a letter from the chairman of the Peel Board of Education, and I quote from her letter of October 21, 1987. The chairman of the Peel board is Mrs. Margaret McKee. In this letter to me, she says, "While the board is dealt with fairly by the Ministry of Education personnel complying with existing rules, the constraints under which these rules are applied requires examination."

The Peel Board of Education is the largest public school board in Canada, and today it is a school system with insufficient accommodation. Peel requested \$32 million for new school construction in 1987 and—take careful note—it received \$24 million, which was an \$8-million shortfall. In 1988, Peel requires \$43 million for new school construction. Over the next five years, the Peel Board of Education will require \$130 million for new school construction.

There are currently 356 portables at Peel schools, and this number will likely increase to over 500 portables by September 1988. It is less than one year away until we are looking at 500 portables in the region of Peel.

The guidelines to qualify for capital construction are unclear and practically nonexistent. The ministry formula for dollars is based on class size and equipment, and it is 10 years out of date.

Why is Peel competing for capital allocations within the central region of the Ministry of Education, where there is a great deal of growth, instead of being considered against provincial priorities? Why is there competition between requests for financing new school construction and upgrading older facilities? I may say, since quite a part of my riding has older schools, that we are now in a situation where the parent-teacher groups are fund-raising to redecorate the schools, simply because there is no budget for simple maintenance and upgrading. Certainly, upgrading an older school to today's standards is an issue itself, but when schools cannot budget for simple maintenance in an older building because of the shortage of funding, that is pretty extreme.

The province has a rule that requires boards to adopt a school closure policy. The Peel Board of Education has closed 11 schools since 1979. Therefore, the goodwill on the part of the Peel board to be committed to a provincial policy and direction is well demonstrated.

Over a large number of years, the Peel board has produced sound data to support capital allocations from the province; yet insufficient

money is made available for school construction and upgrading. The result is that portable classrooms are becoming a replacement for permanent accommodation. It seems to be accepted that if there is some kind of accommodation for these students, it does not matter any more that it is a portable. It does not matter that portables themselves cause very grave program limitations.

The problem is that priorities are established against unclear, outdated rules, ministry traditions and unclear government direction. For example, the Peel board was directed by the Ministry of Education to include accommodation for day care in its most recently approved schools. This is a particularly interesting point. This required a redesign of existing school plans. A recent memorandum from the ministry requesting capital forecasts states that plans for day care should not be included in future school approval requests. Until the expectations for day care are clarified, it is difficult to design schools efficiently and reserve appropriate-sized school sites.

Is that not amazing? On the one hand, a school board is asked to provide accommodation for day care in its plans. The school boards go to the expense of having new schools redesigned, and then the ministry says, "We do not want to hear about it in your long-term forecasts."

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It is very difficult to reserve school sites. When a municipality is approving plans for subdivisions, there are certain acreages set aside for the use of the school board which relate to whatever type of school it is. It also relates to the amount of acreage that has to be reserved.

That land costs money. How can any planning be done, either by the municipality or by a school board, when we have a Ministry of Education that on the one hand is saying, "Provide for this service," and on the other hand is saying, "But don't tell us about it, because we don't want to hear about it."

Also complicating the range of planning variables is the announcement made in the recent provincial election campaign to reduce the class size at the primary level. Will this result in more portable classrooms, or will the construction of permanent facilities further aggravate the ability of trustees to prioritize capital requisitions?

I really wish, before this Ministry of Education decided, through its minister, that this reduction of class size should be a priority, that it had talked to the parents, that it had dealt honestly with the regional school boards. I think it is very unfair to

campaign with a great big carrot that says, "Vote for us; we will reduce the class size," without ever saying to the people they are asking to vote for them, "That will cost you X dollars on your property taxes," because as long as this Ministry of Education is not funding the cost of education at the percentage and at the level it should be, every time it announces a new program, there is nobody who pays for it except the person at the local property tax level.

When we have elderly people who are being taxed out of their homes because of the fact that they are paying 60 cents on their local municipal tax dollar for education, then I have to ask, is it fair to introduce programs and announce programs, as a campaign ploy, which simply cannot be funded, cannot be afforded? Is it honest to campaign with those kinds of promises?

It is interesting, because when you think about the impact on the local school board—and I have given members the multimillion-dollar shortfall in the region of Peel alone—when we are looking at an \$8-million shortfall this year for capital construction, we are not even talking about the luxury of the program that will go into those buildings; we are talking about having the buildings. When those requests are made by the Peel Board of Education, they are not made by some formula out of the sky. They are made because the kids are there. The children are there. They need those classrooms. They need those schools today.

On the one hand, the provincial Liberal government is saying, "We cannot give you that money." We heard it all last year from the former Minister of Education, the Minister of Mines (Mr. Conway). He had done what he could for this board and that board. Yet during the Liberal election promises on the campaign trail, they said: "But we will reduce the class size for you. We will just please all the parents of all the grade 1's and grade 2's, because we are now going to reduce the class size from 30 to 20."

I think it is dishonest. I think it is dishonest because they know that if they announce a program like that, they are not going to be paying for it. The local person is paying for it on his property taxes.

It is also dishonest for me personally because, tragically, I have—as I am sure every member in this House has—an unlimited number of young children in need of special education in this province, for whom there are no programs. The reason there are no programs is that the government says it cannot afford them.

Do not tell me the government cannot afford a program for my 10-year-old boy, an example in my riding, who can neither walk nor speak. Members can imagine the very specialized program that young child needs. Do not tell me the government cannot afford a program for him and then tell me on the campaign trail that it can afford to reduce class size from 30 to 20. I really find that I have become rather disillusioned about the whole process of election campaign promises.

The Peel Board of Education will implement a junior kindergarten program in September 1988. This decision is consistent with Ministry of Education philosophy for early childhood education. To what extent will the province provide financial support to accommodate students in this program?

I could probably talk about education alone for two or three hours because there are many areas of concern. I come from a very strong background, having been a trustee on the Peel Board of Education for four years. I know the problems that are faced in education today. If there is one thing I would like to ask this government—I certainly am pleased to see that the member for Wentworth North (Mr. Ward) has arrived, because perhaps—

Mr. Villeneuve: There are no cabinet ministers. He is just the whip.

Mrs. Marland: I am sorry. I thought for one exciting moment that the Minister of Education (Mr. Ward) had arrived. He has not.

Through this record in Hansard I will request that the Minister of Education clarify the rules for capital allocation requests, because until that is done, those allocation requests will not eliminate all the accommodation problems. If he would at least clarify the rules for capital allocation, it would certainly help.

Another area that was certainly used by the Liberal Party in the campaign was what they were going to do for affordable housing. Certainly last week and this week in this House we have heard the questions and we have heard the answers by the Minister of Housing (Ms. Hošek): absolutely no answers. When you have a Premier, as we had, go around this province in the last campaign and promise 102,000 new housing units in three years, that was probably a very exciting statement, a very exciting announcement. However, the sad part is that we now know that was wrong, too. That, too, was dishonest.

At this point, I would just interrupt my response to the throne speech to welcome

Madam Speaker and congratulate her on that appointment. It certainly is a wonderful day in the Ontario Legislature to have you, Madam Speaker, in that chair.

The Premier campaigned promising 102,000 new housing units in three years, but now we have learned that it is in fact 66,000 units, and not even in three years but over five years. We have the tremendous reduction in units and we have an added two years. We are looking at 66,000 units in five years, yet in the throne speech we had a commitment to “continue to directly create and preserve low- and moderately-priced housing.” I have to ask: How is that going to happen soon enough even to meet the commitment that was made in the campaign? We now know that commitment was impossible, is impossible.

Therefore, a commitment, made on a campaign, which is totally impossible is, in my opinion, totally dishonest and unfair. It is unfair to those people who thought: “We will vote Liberal this time because they are going to get us a house; they are going to get us an apartment unit; they are going to help us get off these waiting lists.” It has not happened.

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We also heard the big fanfare that the Ministry of Housing is going to use government lands to increase the overall supply of affordable housing. I understand they are looking closely at using perhaps the government lands in the Rouge Valley. Perhaps they had better look very closely before they step in that direction. That will be a direction in the wrong way.

We have also heard that they were going to introduce a new Ontario home ownership savings plan to assist people to purchase their first home.

Mr. Villeneuve: If you could live long enough.

Mrs. Marland: My colleague said, “If you can live long enough.” That is exactly true, because we are still waiting to find out what the Ontario home ownership savings plan will be, and when.

It is a very interesting experience to go through a campaign, as I did, my first re-election campaign in the provincial Legislature. Although after 14 years in politics I have had lots of experience with campaigns, I never realized before how it works at the Ontario level. I did learn a great deal. One example I would like to give members is on the subject of sound barriers.

In my riding, which is the south part of Mississauga, the northern boundary is the Queen Elizabeth Way. For two years I have been asking the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Fulton) for

some segments of sound barriers along the south side of the Queen Elizabeth Way. For two years I was told that, other than the ones that had already been allocated on a priority basis, we would have to wait for this final segment, and it may be interesting to tell members where that is. The south side from east of Erin Mills Parkway over to Highway 10, I was told when I was asking the minister, was not in the budget and was not affordable. Is it not amazing how these money trees suddenly appear during election campaigns? Suddenly, on August 31, 1987, there was a very exciting news release from the Minister of Transportation and Communications. This says:

"Additional funding for noise barriers, Toronto. The province will double its yearly expenditure for highway noise barriers with an additional allocation of \$2 million, Ontario Minister of Transportation and Communications, Ed Fulton, said today."

[Applause]

Mrs. Marland: It is very, very interesting. It actually talks about two sites, the one that I have just referred to in my riding, and one elsewhere. I am wondering if the member in the other area even knows anything about it.

What is interesting about that announcement—and I note with some sadness the applause of the Liberal members of the government side of the House to my reading this statement—is that now you should know, Madam Speaker, that there has been no mention of this announcement in any government publication since. I understand it is not even included in the five-year plan of the Ministry of Transportation, as it is now called, and I use the new name for that ministry.

It is amazing that on August 31 there was this big announcement, yet we have not heard anything of it since. I understand the staff has received no instruction to begin design, that there is no engineering study, and I know that the design and the engineering study itself will take at least two years. Yet here was the announcement, here was the funding and nobody in the ministry knows anything about it, no one has been given any direction since then.

Is it any wonder that the people who heard this—and of course it made all the media, and certainly the person running as the Liberal candidate in this area went up and down the road, knocking on the doors of the homes that back on to the Queen Elizabeth Way saying, "Look what my government will get for you"—I am glad that those people who obviously demonstrated their faith in the Conservative candidate for that area

recognized this for what it was. It was a campaign ploy, a campaign ploy the same as the one I gave the example of in terms of education.

It is very sad to note how this government really works with its announcements to mislead the people. I would not mind that announcement being made if it were now being followed up, but I challenge the Minister of Transportation, who obviously is not in the House today, to try to tell us when this is going to be built.

Mr. Ferraro: On a point of order, Madam Speaker: With respect to the honourable member, I sat here and listened to her use some words like "dishonest" on a number of occasions, and now to say the word "misleading," when in fact she does not know categorically for a fact whether the minister is going to withdraw that promise or not. I quite frankly need a ruling, and indeed, I think an apology is in order.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Sullivan): The member for Guelph, you will have two minutes to comment later on. I do not believe that to be a point of order.

Mr. Pouliot: Madam Speaker, with respect, I would like to draw your attention to the standing orders. I was just reviewing them for my own speech tomorrow. With respect, standing order 19(d)8 states, "Makes allegations against another member," and we have heard some pretty unparliamentary and very strong language.

Mrs. Marland: I would suggest that my language is not, however, as strong as that of one of the other cabinet ministers, also a female, on the government side of the House.

Mr. Ferraro: Point of order, Madam Speaker—

The Acting Speaker: Order. The member who has the floor, I would request that you consider withdrawing your statement, as my friend the member has indicated. I would think it appropriate.

Mrs. Marland: Madam Speaker, I would be happy to withdraw the word "misleading" if I were saying that the person in the House was misleading. I said the statement is misleading; I did not say the person, and Hansard will show that I was referring to this statement, this press release, as being misleading.

Mr. Ferraro: With respect, Madam Speaker, whether or not she indicated an individual by name or in a statement, it implies motive, and if she is indicating that someone is misleading the House, it is the same thing.

The Acting Speaker: I do not recall the exact words that the member used and I do not think they were pointed towards a particular member.

Mrs. Marland: Thank you for your fairness and your ruling, Madam Speaker. I think you will feel assured when you see the Hansard that I was referring to this news release and that the member who challenged me was actually wrong, but I accept the fact that now that the member for Guelph has arrived in the House, he is very stimulated by my speech, and I welcome him to listen to my response to the throne speech.

Mr. Villeneuve: He doesn't get much chance to speak.

Mr. Ferraro: Especially when you started talking about sound barriers.

Mrs. Marland: That is right. I am really happy that the member for Guelph is here, because I know he is going to enjoy what I am now going to have to say about the environment.

In dealing with the subject of the environment, obviously in my riding in Mississauga South, with all the south end of my riding having as the boundary the north shore of Lake Ontario or a portion thereof, I am very concerned about a number of areas regarding the environment.

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In particular, I would like to just refer to the fact that we have something unique taking place in Mississauga South, and that is the decommissioning of an oil refinery, namely, the Texaco plant. There is another oil refinery being decommissioned in Oakville, I understand, and there is one in Alberta, but this is unique, obviously. We are just now coming to the point in our history in our country where refineries may be decommissioned.

The decommissioning of the Texaco lands is very critical to the people who live not only within the immediate area but also within the community as a whole because we are concerned about the future use of those lands and the safety of the use of those lands. So that is an area I am monitoring very carefully, not only as the Environment critic for the Conservative Party but also as the representative for that community. Obviously, before those lands can be used for any safe redevelopment purpose, the Ministry of the Environment is going to have to have developed very close, tight criteria, and it is my intention to monitor the development of those criteria very closely.

While we are looking at the subject of the environment, we have to look at the subject of garbage disposal. I am very proud to tell members that in the city of Mississauga we do have a recycling program as part of the regular garbage pickup, and that is something I would

like to see this government show some direction in.

I would like to challenge this government to make recycling of domestic garbage mandatory in municipalities across the province, mandatory from the standpoint that it obviously puts to use some of the garbage that previously went into landfill sites. Also, it will reduce the amount of landfill-site property that will be needed around the province, and just simply, there has to be a solution as to what to do with garbage.

I think of the problem that Metro is having in solving its site; I think of the example of Tiny township now; there are examples around the province where what municipalities can do with their volumes of garbage is a very real problem. Certainly the Ministry of the Environment has not given us any excitement in the throne speech as to what it is willing to do in terms of funding a solution for garbage.

Energy-from-waste plants are a consideration right now in Brampton. There is a site that is being proposed for an EFW, the Petro-Sun proposal. That is going through its environmental assessment, but in reality, the solution for EFW plants has to be one that we do not leap into but that we move towards very cautiously, as with very strict protection for the future environment.

On a provincial base, we have to look at our responsibility in Ontario for the water quality in the Great Lakes. On that point, I would hope to see very soon that there is an announcement that the select committee on the environment, which held meetings earlier this year in Ontario, will be resumed. We have not yet seen an announcement about that select committee.

The select committee on the environment, on which I was fortunate enough to sit as a member, had only begun its discussions and its responsibility towards the needs for the future planning of the protection of the environment today. We had dealt with the subject of acid rain only, and we had a whole list of items we were looking forward to pursuing. I am certainly confident that the member for Etobicoke-Lakeshore (Mrs. Grier) of the New Democratic Party will be as concerned as I am to ensure that the select committee on the environment is reinstated and starts meetings as early as possible.

We were going to be looking at the quality of the water in Lake Ontario as it related to the contributions from New York state through the Niagara River of all the contaminants that we are concerned about. We have been waiting for several years for air pollution regulations. I do

not see those yet. We certainly have to have those as quickly as possible.

Another thing that really concerned me about this throne speech was the fact that for the first time in 10 years there was no mention of acid rain. Does that suddenly mean that in this government's opinion the subject of acid rain is no longer a priority, not even of concern enough to be mentioned in the throne speech? I really challenge that.

I also want to question the number of exemptions that have been made by this Liberal government under the Environmental Assessment Act. I happen to have a list here of those exemptions. There are 61 exemptions to the environmental assessment process and we know from questions in the House last week that the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley) is considering the request, which he has not formally received but we understand is certainly coming, from Metro to exempt its newest garbage landfill-site location.

It is very interesting to look at this list of exemptions because I think that in the throne speech the references to the environment were limited. When we look at this list of exemptions, there are many that are government projects. In fact, even the Ministry of the Environment has many exemptions here, but it is primarily the Ministry of Government Services that has a lot of exemptions. I am sure there would be an explanation for some of them but I have to wonder how the construction of a highway—in this case it was Highway 403 from Highway 2 and 53 in Ancaster to the Highway 403 bypass in Brantford—gets an exemption.

I also wonder about the last item on this list which is in the municipality of Metropolitan Toronto. I do not even know what this would mean. It says, "Straighten the parts of north and east boundaries of the Keele valley landfill." With the sensitivity of the public to what is done with landfill sites, I really have to wonder how that would be exempt from environmental assessment.

During the last session, I introduced a private member's bill, Bill 41. I had to introduce that bill because of a concern with rusty water in Mississauga South. It is an example of the fact that in 1987 in Ontario we are faced with major needs for watermain replacements. I know the members are also aware that we have major needs for sewage treatment plants, for upgrading, rebuilding, redesigning and replacement. In my private member's bill, I asked that the government help fund the replacement of water-

main around the province, not only in my riding although in the region of Peel today we have 173 kilometres of watermains that need replacing. The cost today is \$50 million but who knows how much it would be by the time that work is done because the cost of that replacement is escalating daily.

We have seen some announcements by the Minister of the Environment to provide money for municipalities to do an inventory of their needs in terms of infrastructure replacement for watermains and sewage treatment plants, but to give the money to do the inventory simply is not enough. It certainly is not enough in a year when this provincial government has a \$1.3-billion surplus, more money than any government has ever before had to allocate to needs of this kind of emergency, and I certainly did not see in this throne speech where it was willing to resolve the problem as quickly as it needs to be resolved in order that it is even affordable for the taxpayers in Ontario.

1700

I also noticed that in this throne speech there was an announcement that "an Ecological Reserves Act to preserve areas of outstanding environmental significance" would be introduced by this government. I wonder how that is going to work. I wonder how an Ecological Reserves Act will deal with the possibility that this government is considering building homes in the Rouge Valley.

Also, we have in Mississauga South, the Lakefront Promenade Park. I tell the members this as an example of a very real concern about how the Ministry of Natural Resources is operating. Through the throne speech again I do not see the solution for this problem. Lakefront Promenade Park is a landfill project into Lake Ontario. It needs now \$4.5 million to be completed.

On May 12, I had a meeting with the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio); the regional chairman of Peel, Frank Bean; the mayor of Mississauga, Hazel McCallion; the mayor of Brampton, Ken Whillans; the general manager of the Credit Valley Conservation Authority, Vicki Barron; and Councillor Harold Kennedy in whose municipal ward the Lakefront Promenade Park exists.

At that meeting on May 12, 1987, the Minister of Natural Resources listened very carefully to their request for the \$4.5 million to complete this park. It is not simply for the purpose of being a recreational park; it is also part of a shoreline

protection program, so it is utilitarian as well as functional, recreationally speaking.

At this meeting on May 12, the minister assured us that we would have his answer in three weeks' time. I think the date today is November 17. It does not take very much to calculate from May 12 to November 17 and we are yet to receive the response from the Minister of Natural Resources for the funding to complete Lakefront Promenade Park.

To move to the subject of day care, this again seems to be an area where this government has made many, many promises. So that I will not upset the member for Guelph, I will not describe those promises as anything but delayed. We have been waiting for a policy on day care for two years, since this Liberal government took office. We understand that there is no demonstrated commitment to move on this. This government keeps blaming the federal government for not announcing its policy. I feel that this Liberal government is just pretending to care. They are hoping that the issue will go away. In the meantime, they do not look at any interim solutions.

In dealing with an announcement that was made yesterday in this Legislature pertaining to the disabled, I feel I have to reiterate the comments I made yesterday. The announcement was made by the Minister without Portfolio responsible for disabled persons (Mr. Mancini). He introduced the annual report for 1986-87 of the Ontario Advisory Council for Disabled Persons.

I joined with that minister in commending the people who produced this report, the Ontario Advisory Council for Disabled Persons. This is now a new name, changed from the Ontario Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped. In tabling this report and commending the people who have put the work into preparing it, I certainly sense some insincerity on the part of the government—I hope, for the member for Guelph, “insincerity” is appropriate. I sensed some insincerity on the part of the government, a government which yesterday said it would study the recommendations of this report particularly as it pertained to transportation for seniors and the disabled.

However, the report it is going to study, and bear in mind it made this announcement yesterday on November 16, 1987, is called *The Freedom to Move is Life Itself*. That is a report this advisory council worked extremely hard in preparing. They did a tremendous amount of work. The report deals with access to transporta-

tion for the seniors and disabled. What the Minister without Portfolio responsible for the disabled did not say yesterday was that the report was tabled in March 1987. Now, in November, we have an announcement that the government will study the report and perhaps in the new year it will have some recommendations.

I have to challenge the commitment of this government to the disabled people and the seniors and elderly in this province when it has had a report since March and then in November says it will study it. I think it is very unfair to those people who have a very real need today in terms of transportation. If you are physically disabled or you are an elderly person for whom public transportation is a very difficult challenge at best and impossible at worst, I think it is very unfair for a government to have a priority that allows a report to sit from March until November and then says that in the new year, if we are lucky, we will get some recommendations.

When a throne speech makes a statement that the government is going “to continue to expand this network of support services” and “improve access to transportation services for seniors and the disabled,” I have to wonder about it, when it could actually have made announcements of remedies for the problems of transportation for the elderly and the disabled back in—well, it got the report in March—maybe May, maybe even in June. Instead of which we lose a whole year for those people who not only need the transportation in order to survive emotionally and socially, but maybe to survive economically, those people who need access to public transportation in order to have jobs and employment.

The throne speech, as far as I am concerned, is a very big disappointment in many areas. I do not see the kinds of remedies for the kinds of human needs in this province today that there should be, when we live in an affluent province such as Ontario. I do not see the programs for the youth. I do not see the skills development. I hear a lot of things that are very much walking the middle of the line.

We hear this government talking about the subject of free trade. I do not think we could have a better example of a middle-of-the-road political position on any subject than this government has on free trade. This government is generating fear. It is giving partial information. It is taking part in a partisan discussion of a very serious issue. This issue of free trade should go beyond the partisan aspect. If everybody could be totally honest on the subject of free trade, we would all

decide based on facts, not on misrepresentation and fiction and fear.

Regardless of our political party's stripe, we have a responsibility not only to the future of this country but also to the future of this province, and I feel this Liberal government in Ontario today should be more responsible, especially when it has a secure, five-year mandate. If it were a responsible government, it would be building competitive strengths.

What happened to the \$10-million technology fund? I am sure those of us who were in this House heard all the fanfare and certainly had to endure all the promises associated with that.

1710

This throne speech simply has no plans for the future, for harder times that might face us. If we do not plan for the future in the good times, in the affluent times when we have surpluses, then we can look for very serious problems when our financial budget is not in those conditions.

In closing, the one comment I want to make about this speech is that it was in one sentence totally different from the previous throne speech, and I think that has to be the saddest comment of all. The fact that earlier in the year, when we had the other throne speech, we had everything promised to everybody—and I recognized that that would not in fact enter the real world—but the fact that we had a throne speech that promises everything to everybody and that we know is impossible to implement, maybe on that score alone this throne speech was more, dare I say, honest? Maybe this throne speech was more representative of the real world.

Then we have to wonder what the throne speech earlier this year meant, where the government promises everything to everyone and has a solution for every single human need in this province, and yet less than six months later, it comes in with a throne speech that seems to ignore those previous commitments, all those previous statements of solutions and remedies for every single cause.

That is my gravest concern about this throne speech: It is so different. I have to ask, is it so different because one was made prior to a pending election? At that time, we did not know when—at least, we in the opposition did not know when, but I recognize that perhaps even when that throne speech was made, the election date was planned; that is the prerogative of the government. But I really have to wonder if that is the difference between that speech and this one, because in this throne speech we have very little substance of anything. My regret is that, at this

time in our history in Ontario, this government had an opportunity to give a throne speech that really meant something in reality for the people of Ontario. I regret that that did not happen, and I regret it on behalf of not only the people in Mississauga South but the people in the province as a whole.

Mr. Ferraro: Let me, by way of editorial, say that it did not go without significant notice that the member mentioned sound barriers in her speech, and I would say there are occasions when we could certainly utilize sound barriers even in the House.

Having said that, she went at great length to talk about the unfulfilled promises of my government. By way of personal experience in my riding in Guelph, for example, her party, the Conservative Party, was in power for 42 years. For 20 years we waited for capital funds for hospital redevelopment. On two occasions they actually committed funds and then subsequently withdrew. It was not until the new Liberal government under the Premier got elected that, indeed, we got the injection of capital funds.

I have a question. I say with respect to my colleague the member for Mississauga South (Mrs. Marland), I have a question. She talked at great length—and I understand it is part of the job of being in opposition—and criticized my government and the promises and the unfulfilled promises and used such words as “being dishonest,” which I still do not think is parliamentary.

Having said that, I am just wondering; there were promises indicated by all three parties, as politicians will make during elections. The New Democratic Party, I believe—and these are the media statistics—promised something like \$4 billion. The Liberal Party was something like \$2 billion. The Conservative Party, under Larry Grossman, was going to reduce personal income taxes by 10 per cent and balance the budget, and its total promises amounted to \$10 billion. So my question to the member is this: If we are dishonest promising \$2 billion, does that necessarily mean the Conservatives are five times as dishonest?

Hon. Mr. Ward: Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend the member for Mississauga South for her supportive comments with regard to the government's initiatives in education. She did make some reference, however, to the funds that are allocated for capital and disbursed to various school boards to meet the needs of the students within the community, and I would just like to remind the honourable member that during her short-lived incarnation as a govern-

ment member, the total amount of capital funds available in 1985, I believe, was in the neighbourhood of \$60 million.

In 1986, when a new government assumed responsibility in this province, that figure was increased to more than double: \$134 million; in 1987 the amount was \$147 million; and this year it is \$226 million, triple the amount that was available in 1985 when her party had the responsibilities of government.

Mrs. Marland: I would just say in response to the member for Guelph that he would perhaps do well not to discuss the subjects of hospitals and hospital funding because unfortunately, because of the delay for the hospital in Barrie, it was my understanding we had some rather tragic incidents because of the way that was bounced back and forth under the present government's administration.

I want to be very clear about the comment of the member for Guelph about sound barriers sometimes being needed in this House. I always think it is an indication of the source when someone reduces his comments to a personal attack. I do not think I would actually stand in the House and suggest that I would want to miss the speeches of the member for Guelph on any subject by the use of a sound barrier. Quite frankly, I would welcome the opportunity to hear his words of wisdom at some time in the future, and I would not want to lose or miss any of those.

When the member for Wentworth North talks about my support of the Ministry of Education initiatives in the throne speech, I think unfortunately he was not in the House the whole time because I do not recall giving any applause to the initiatives towards education in the throne speech.

My concern was directed totally to the fact that the funding of education in this province is not, in any board in any area of the province, where it must be and needs to be, and as I said earlier, if we do not do it in the years when we have money, then do not go around announcing programs that are in fact a ploy to get votes, pure and simple, which the taxpayer of the local municipality must then pay for.

Hon. Mr. Ward: Mr. Speaker, I want to withdraw my remarks if I misrepresented the member for Mississauga South. I assumed that she supported our funding initiatives in education, but I stand corrected.

1720

Mr. Adams: This is an important moment for me. I worked for 12 years to achieve this place. Before I begin my remarks, Mr. Speaker, I

wonder if I might deal with a couple of housekeeping matters over which you have some responsibility.

We have been briefed, and in this House we have one of the finest television systems operating in a parliament anywhere in the world. One of the principal camera shots in that system is a north-to-south shot in which you and your colleagues are the central focus. That is most appropriate, and I think it is a very fine camera shot.

It happens that this position, towards which I have worked so hard these many years, is just out of view in that camera shot. I wonder if you and your colleagues would consider a couple of very simple solutions to this small problem which I have.

The first possibility I would suggest you and your colleagues might consider is that you would move your chair about a metre in this direction. The second is that from time to time I be allowed to sit on this corner of my desk, which is in view of the cameras in that important shot. I would be grateful if you would consider those matters.

It is a great honour for me to be the member for Peterborough. I am very conscious of the responsibilities which accompany that office, and I intend to do all in my power to live up to the expectations of my constituents.

The Peterborough riding is one of the largest, if not the largest, riding in the province. We have almost 60,000 voters. It is also a riding that in quite a remarkable way is a miniature of the province as a whole. The northern part of the riding, like much of northern Ontario, is Canadian Shield, with lakes and forests which are the basis of the Kawartha Lakes tourist industry. We no longer have a mine in the riding, but we do have one close by, and oil processing is a feature of the local economy.

The southern part of the riding is typical of what most of us think of as rural southern Ontario. There are more lakes, but these are surrounded by farm land, which is the base for sophisticated and vigorous agriculture, including dairy, beef, pork and poultry farming. This agriculture is reflected in the city of Peterborough, where we have agriculture service and support industries, including food processing. Among other things, Peterborough is the Canadian headquarters for Quaker Oats Ltd.

However, the most noticeable part of the economy of the city of Peterborough is a diversified manufacturing sector. The city is among the top 20 cities in Canada for its manufacturing labour force, although it is only

just in the top 20 in terms of total population size. We have scores of manufacturing firms, heavy and light manufacturing, high tech and low tech, including Canadian General Electric, Outboard Marine Corp., Fisher Gauge Ltd. and many others.

Several thousands of Peterborough people, mainly men, work in the General Motors plants in nearby Oshawa. We are also the base for plants that are part of the Autoplex.

The other two main sectors of the riding economy are education and health care.

Peterborough is a national education centre, principally through the presence of Trent University and Sir Sandford Fleming College. Both of these are unusual in the province in terms of the percentage of their students who do not come from the local area. One of the campuses of Sir Sandford, for example, receives no less than 98 per cent of its students from outside the greater Peterborough area. More than 80 per cent of all Trent students come from elsewhere. Thus, we provide a very real service to the entire province and, indeed, to Canada and the world.

We are also a major regional health centre with two hospitals, Peterborough Civic Hospital and St. Joseph's General Hospital, and the Five Counties Children's Centre. We have a variety of other regional health organizations. Thus, Peterborough riding has a broadly based economy which includes virtually every one of the main planks of the provincial economy: agriculture, tourism, education, heavy and light manufacturing.

The demography of the riding also reflects that of Ontario as a whole. We have a well-established and productive native community and the full spectrum of ethnic groups and religious affiliations. In various ways, Peterborough riding is Ontario in miniature. It has often been used as a centre for the test marketing of products and policies. So, Mr. Speaker, if you ever need a rapid and inexpensive, I might say, idea of what the province is thinking, you might just give me a call.

On September 10, we test marketed the speech from the throne in Peterborough riding and we received a dramatically positive response to it. I know it seems odd to say we were dealing with the speech from the throne in September when His Honour the Lieutenant Governor delivered it only a couple of weeks ago, but this, in effect, is what we did.

I was surprised, and I am sure you, Mr. Speaker, were surprised, that some people opposite were surprised that there were no

surprises in the speech from the throne. As the speech simply represented this government's clear statement that it intends to follow through on policies and programs presented to the province in an intense election campaign, why should there have been any surprises? Those on the other side of the House who decry this speech should bear in mind the endorsement which it, in effect, received on September 10.

I propose to address only two or three aspects of the speech. My colleagues have been doing and will continue to do justice to the rest. The first thrust of the speech that I would like to mention has to do with the proposals dealing with the orderly development of what is called the greater Toronto area.

Although at times those of us who live outside Metro can be resentful of the attention which it appears to receive, in our calmer moments we do realize that Metro is the heart of the provincial economy. In a very real sense, the health of the whole province depends on the health of this heart. We realize that, in part because of the intense economic activity of recent years, that heart is not functioning as well as it might. The arteries feeding it are clogging up and there are other problems which do not bode well for Metro itself or the province at large. I feel the speech from the throne addresses these matters.

With regard to transportation specifically, from our vantage point in Peterborough we sense that the clogging up is most obvious towards the southwest of Metro, along the Queen Elizabeth Way and beyond. This is the direction in which metropolitan growth is impinging directly on those great provincial and national assets, the Niagara Escarpment and the unique orchard lands and other farm lands of our province. We are delighted, therefore, that there are real signs that Metro is at last being channelled towards the east. There are province-wide advantages to this as well as real advantages to eastern and central Ontario.

I was particularly pleased to see that the extension of GO Transit to Oshawa is being actively pursued, with route information issued even today as we speak.

1730

In Peterborough we see the GO Transit rail link to Oshawa combined with the rapid completion of Highway 115 as being important for the health of Metro and for the proper development of central and eastern Ontario. These two things, GO Transit and Highway 115, are things that I will be working for and watching for from my

vantage point here just outside the main camera view of which you are such an interesting focus.

The second aspect of the speech from the throne on which I would like to comment is the part which deals with community-based health care, preventive health policies, independent living for seniors and disabled persons and related matters.

I welcome policies which move the province towards a comprehensive community-based health care system. This approach is very important in regions like Peterborough, which are somewhat isolated independent communities which cannot depend on Metro for all their services. Indeed, in Peterborough we have been caring for ourselves for generations and we have taken steps to co-ordinate our services at the community level with regard to senior citizen care, health and other care for children in terms of physical and mental rehabilitation, and so on.

I would like to mention one example of leadership which Peterborough has shown in what is called in the speech from the throne the lifestyle area of preventive health. Peterborough was virtually the first Participaction community in Canada. For nearly two decades it has had exercise programs, health promotional programs and so on developed from the grassroots up. We are at present the national exercise capital of Canada for a community of our size.

The Peterborough Participaction movement spawned a large variety of local sports and exercise activities and these are still continuing and have spread across the province. That same Participaction organization also developed workplace fitness programs in local industries, exercise programs in the schools and exercise programs for seniors. We are, therefore, delighted to receive support for these and related activities in the speech from the throne.

Health care should be community-based and it should stress prevention, but we must remember, and I know this government will remember it, that community-based programs require an institutional response. A simple example of this is the way in which hospitals have had to develop athletes' clinics in response to the huge increase in exercise which has occurred in this province in recent years. There was a great surge in community activity, in this case exercise and, hopefully, that exercise reduces the need for hospitals in some respects, but it also generated the need for clinics focusing specifically on exercise problems.

The same point can be made for virtually all the so-called community-based activities envis-

aged in the speech from the throne. For example, if seniors are to stay in their own homes, they need easily accessible health and other supports. If disabled children are to be fully integrated into the community, they too need institutional support of various types. The same point can be made for mental health patients and others. We have to address the matter of institutional response to community-based programs while we are developing those community-based programs.

In the case of Peterborough, we simply cannot rely on services elsewhere if the health care system is to be truly community-based. This translates into a need in Peterborough for sophisticated rehabilitation programs connected with the hospitals and a sophisticated rehabilitation facility in the very near future.

I will pass over many of the items in the speech from the throne, not out of lack of interest but, as I mentioned, because I am sure my colleagues will deal with them. I like the speech's emphasis on competitiveness of the provincial economy; I like its educational themes; I support the thrust for affordable housing, and I support the emphasis on the environment and so on.

I will conclude my remarks by mentioning that part of the speech from the throne which dealt with eastern and northern Ontario. In Peterborough we are of course pleased that eastern Ontario will continue to receive the emphasis it deserves. Highway 115 is a priority and the Eastern Ontario Development Corp. and such programs as Destinations East are all having a significant effect in Peterborough riding, but I thought I would close by mentioning something about the north rather than the east, in part because of the remarks of the member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman) who spoke before me.

I have some personal interest in this, as I worked in the north throughout my adult life. However, on behalf of Peterborough riding, a community which is, as I said, representative of southern Ontario, I would like to say to the people of northern Ontario that there are people on this side of the House, northerners and non-northerners, who support programs to improve the economy and quality of life in northern Ontario. We believe that the province as a whole will benefit if its various parts are healthy. The people of northern Ontario should know that they have support in Peterborough and that they have real support on this side of the House.

Finally, I would return to September 10 and our test-marketing of the speech from the throne in the riding of Peterborough. As I said, we

received a dramatic mandate to pursue certain policies and carry out certain programs. I intend, as responsibly as I can, to follow through on those promises, both as an individual and as a member of this government.

However, I know the response I received was not unanimous. The two parties opposite, despite the empty seats at present, have considerable support in my riding, and this is something I am very conscious of.

Thus, although I am firm in my resolve to fulfil the mandate I have been given, I want everyone in Peterborough to know that my door is always open and that my mind is equally open to new ideas and input of all kinds. I welcome suggestions of any type at any time. In saying this, I am sure I speak for the government, including its progressive, creative and compassionate back benchers.

The Deputy Speaker: Would any members like to make comments on the speech from the member for Peterborough?

Mr. McLean: I would certainly be pleased to make a comment or two. I want to compliment the member for Peterborough on his address. I want to say there are some things within his remarks that concern me. Some of the commitments and promises that have been made concern me.

One basic part of his speech I want to draw his attention to that I am very concerned about is the community-based health care program his government has said it wants to initiate. I would like to hear some of the details of that program. I have not seen in print yet what the details are—just a very vague policy statement. However, he has made comments towards that, and I would be very interested in hearing some of his comments on how they plan to implement community-based home care.

1740

Ms. Bryden: I would like to congratulate you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, on your elevation to the chair that you are now in.

I would also like to comment on the member's euphoric statement about urban transportation problems in the Metro region and his faith that the Liberal government is going to be able to solve all those tremendous problems by some sort of a Pooh-Bah whom it intends to appoint to develop and co-ordinate the regional needs of, roughly, the area of the Golden Horseshoe in the transportation field.

I agree that it is a tremendous problem and that it is getting worse every day. A good deal of it can be laid at the door of the provincial

government, which has been encouraging a lot of the downtown development in Toronto, particularly the domed stadium in the middle of town and the Harbourfront development, which all governments have had a part in, plus new transit developments down in the Harbourfront area; in other words, funnelling more and more people into the centre of Toronto for various reasons and not dealing with the transportation needs of the people who are being funnelled in.

More and more people are commuting from great distances, mainly because of the housing prices, which I lay at the door of the two preceding governments. If we did not have such a serious housing crisis, with no affordable housing in the city of Toronto, particularly no affordable rental housing, we would not have people buying houses and condominiums way out in the outlying regions, even as far as Peterborough, and certainly as far as Hamilton, and driving in. I think the member should be looking for much more action in this field.

Mr. Adams: I would draw the member's attention to the fact that the speech from the throne is not supposed to be a detailed statement of every act of this government over a certain period of time. A speech from the throne, as I understand it, is a series of signals of the way in which the government will proceed. It is that, because otherwise it would be thicker than the Metropolitan Toronto telephone directory. I think members opposite should realize this.

Earlier on, we heard discussion about the north, and I tried to address that. The north receives considerable attention in the speech from the throne. That is an indication of what this government intends to do.

The member for Simcoe East (Mr. McLean) asked about community-based health care. That is an area which receives considerable attention in the speech from the throne, which is a signal, as I see it, of an emphasis that this government will have.

I would say to the member for Beaches-Woodbine (Ms. Bryden), similarly, that the areas of transportation and affordable housing are specifically mentioned. Both of those are signals that this government intends to address transportation and affordable housing in Metro.

Mr. Black: I am proud to stand here today as the first representative of the new riding of Muskoka-Georgian Bay. As many members know, my riding now encompasses two of Ontario's most scenic areas. It is a diverse riding, both geographically and economically. It ranges from the farm lands of Simcoe county to the

wilderness areas which border Algonquin Provincial Park and includes the rocky outcroppings of the Canadian Shield, the waters of Georgian Bay and the lakes and rivers of Muskoka.

It is in some ways a typical rural and small-town Ontario riding. It is, at the same time, unique in that it contains a substantial number of small and medium-sized manufacturing and processing industries and is, at the same time, the leading holiday and resort area in this province. It is an area in which many members of this Legislature and many people from across this province vacation and the area to which they turn for their rest, their relaxation and their recreation. These people will understand my love for the unique and beautiful part of Ontario which I represent.

Prior to the recent election, my riding was represented by two members of the Progressive Conservative faith. Naturally, it has taken only one Liberal to replace them. One of those two continues to sit as the member for Simcoe East. I am confident the time will come in the not-too-distant future when a new member, of my party, will have the opportunity to pay a tribute to him.

Today, however, I want to recognize the contributions of my predecessor in Muskoka, Frank Miller. His contributions to political life in this province are well documented. For 15 years he served the people of Muskoka and the people of Ontario with integrity and with commitment. Prior to becoming the leader of his party and the Premier of this province, Frank Miller held four different cabinet positions. In each of these, he performed with distinction.

Frank achieved the highest political office in this province. But whether it was in his many moments of success or his few moments of frustration, Frank Miller continued to be a decent, civil person. His warmth, his outgoing personality and his sense of humour won him affection and respect from both sides of this Legislature. I am proud and honoured to follow him, and I hope to continue the tradition of providing excellent representation to the people of my riding.

On September 10 the people of Muskoka-Georgian Bay, like so many others in this province, delivered a clear message. They indicated that they believe the actions of the David Peterson government in the past two years to be both progressive and positive. They believe government had started to work again, and so had Ontario. As a result, they chose to be represented by someone who would be a part of that government. My constituents said yes to Liberal

action, yes to Liberal decisiveness and yes to Liberal change. As a new member of the government team, I am pleased by the clear indications in the speech from the throne that my government is committed to continue with this activist approach.

I am encouraged by the assurances that the supply of affordable housing will be increased, and I am confident that the new Minister of Housing (Ms. Hošek) will provide the leadership to allow this government to meet its objectives in that area.

I look forward to the development of new strategies to promote healthy living in this province. Surely it must be recognized by all of us who sit in this House that this approach to health care in Ontario holds tremendous potential benefits for the people we represent. It may also provide the only practical solution to spiralling health care costs.

I also applaud the commitment to continue and to strengthen our efforts to clean up and protect our environment. People in my riding have particular concerns in this area. The impact of acid rain on the soils, the forests and the lakes and rivers of Muskoka are well documented. Problems resulting from inadequate waste disposal facilities continue to be a source of major concern on the Georgian Bay side of my riding, as they do throughout many parts of this province.

This government has made significant strides forward in the care of our environment, but much more remains to be done. The protection of our environment must continue to be the high priority in the future that it has been in the past two years.

Having had some experience in the field of education, I was particularly pleased with the new initiatives planned for that area. There is now ample research to support the fact that the early years of a child's education are key to later success. The fundamentals of language development and the basic skills of communication and numeracy are vital to later learning. Educators across this province will applaud this government's commitment to reduce class sizes in grades 1 and 2.

As our friends across the Legislature have identified, this will not be implemented without some difficulties. Additional facilities will be required. More portable classrooms may indeed be the result in the short term. But let there be no misunderstanding: Better, far better, to have smaller pupil-teacher ratios in temporary facilities than to wait until the time when we can provide permanent facilities for all the students in

this province. We cannot afford to delay this much-needed step for even one year.

1750

The establishment of new provincial benchmarks for language, mathematics, science and social studies and the development of more effective ways of measuring student achievement against those benchmarks is a second initiative that will be welcomed by parents and teachers. No forward-thinking person would advocate a return to standardized testing in this province. Nineteenth-century solutions to problems in an education system that is currently preparing children for life in the 21st century are simply not acceptable. However, the need to ensure accountability and to maintain public confidence in our education system is vital. This new program should go a long way towards doing just that.

Perhaps the most important initiative in the field of education will be the appointment of a select committee on education. There are many problems facing this government in the months and years ahead. Questions related to teacher training, teacher-school board negotiations, facilities and the difficulty of funding two public systems of education are just some of the issues which must be addressed.

The opportunity to gather input and ideas from a cross-section of both the education community and the community at large will prove of unquestionable value in strengthening our education system which is so vital to keeping Ontario competitive and to maintaining the quality of our lifestyle in the years ahead. A society based on a spirit of caring entrepreneurship must build on the foundation of excellence in its education system.

In conclusion, I am pleased and honoured to take my seat in this Legislature as the first member for Muskoka-Georgian Bay. I look forward with anticipation to the challenge of serving my constituents and the people of this province with vigour, with vitality and with integrity.

Mr. Speaker: Are there any comments or questions?

Mr. McLean: Mr. Speaker, I certainly would like to make some comments, but first of all I would like to congratulate the member for Muskoka-Georgian Bay on his maiden speech in this Legislature. It was interesting to note during his comments where he indicated that the constituents said yes to the Liberal government and to the Liberal promises. It will be interesting to watch the implementation of those.

He talked at great length about education and indicated in his remarks that there will be more portables. It will be interesting when we have some questions in the Legislature to the Minister of Education (Mr. Ward) as to whether he agrees with that aspect of his remarks. With regard to the announcement of 60 per cent funding over the five years, it is interesting that over the past two years the funding has decreased by approximately six per cent to seven per cent, so it will be interesting now to watch the progress the government makes with regard to funding for education.

It is nice to see the former Minister of Education taking part in this debate just for a couple of minutes to observe the wisdom of his new colleagues.

The select committee that is going to be appointed on education will also be something we will be looking forward to and be part of to make sure the young people in our society get the quality education they deserve. However, in the remarks of the member for Muskoka-Georgian Bay, I do not observe how that will happen.

Mr. Black: I thank the member for Simcoe East for his comments. I am particularly pleased to note his interest in education. The difficulties in education are significant, and I think this government has recognized that. They will be taking steps to correct the problems they have inherited. We have had to direct an increasing amount of our money into new capital funding to try to rebuild the classrooms that have been neglected in this province for many years by previous governments.

I am an optimist and I believe with all optimism and with all confidence that this government will work towards solving the problems which it faces.

On motion by Mr. McLean, the debate was adjourned.

DENTAL CARE

Mr. Speaker: Pursuant to standing order 30, the question that this House do now adjourn is deemed to have been put, and I understand that the member for Beaches-Woodbine wishes to speak for up to five minutes. The Minister without Portfolio responsible for senior citizens' affairs (Mrs. Wilson) may reply for up to five minutes.

Ms. Bryden: With regard to my question on November 10 on a dental program for seniors, the reason for my dissatisfaction with the answer of the minister responsible for senior citizens' affairs is that, in fact, her response had no teeth in

it. I had asked the minister whether she had yet brought to cabinet a program and a timetable for carrying out the Liberal election promises made in both the 1985 and 1987 campaigns to bring in a dental care program for seniors. Her response mentioned a variety of government health programs for seniors now in the planning stages, but she said absolutely nothing about a dental program.

The plight of our senior citizens with dental problems has been well documented. A recent city of Toronto survey showed that more than half of the 75,000 seniors in the city had not seen a dentist in five years, even though 90 per cent had some form of gum disease. They are not eligible for most dental insurance plans and simply cannot afford adequate dental care on their meagre incomes. As a result, many lose their teeth prematurely or live on toast and tea or put up with ill-fitting, inadequate dentures. Their overall health is affected by bad teeth. Their nutrition suffers and their self-image and ability to socialize are gravely reduced.

Away back in 1980, the Ontario Advisory Council on Senior Citizens produced a 30-page position paper on seniors' dental care needs. They updated that paper in 1985 and actually set forth a suggested timetable for implementation of a comprehensive, publicly funded dental care plan to begin in 1985, the first year in which the Premier (Mr. Peterson) latched on to the idea as part of his platform. What have he and this government been doing since then? Nothing.

At this time we do not need more studies, but today the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan), apparently responding to my question, promised us just that: more studies. She is going to revive the Advisory Committee on Dental Care for Ontario Children, which had just been put out to pasture after completing plans for a very inadequate means test for a dental plan for children, which is due to start this fall. Apparently, the government felt it had fulfilled its promises on dental care by looking at only a very small part of the problem.

The Minister of Health in her statement today proposes long-term studies of seniors' dental needs and methods of service delivery. There is no time limit on the studies and no deadline for the report.

The longer the government delays implementation by such unnecessary studies, the more seniors will lose their teeth prematurely and suffer from the bad effects of poor dental care on their overall wellbeing.

In her statement, the Minister of Health acknowledged, "Many elderly residents are financially unable to receive necessary dental treatment," but she condemns them to an indefinite wait for relief of any kind.

I urge the Minister without Portfolio responsible for senior citizens' affairs to persuade cabinet that implementation of paid dental care for seniors is, in the name of humanity, most urgent and cannot wait for more studies. The upcoming budget must contain adequate funding for such a program so that it can get started immediately; otherwise, our senior citizens will lose faith in the credibility of Liberal promises in this field.

Hon. Mrs. Wilson: As I recall, the original question from the member for Beaches-Woodbine was whether I had taken to cabinet a program and timetable for the implementation of a dental treatment program for seniors. Dental care is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Health. Accordingly, any proposal for a seniors' dental program would be brought forth by the Minister of Health.

The responsibility of my office lies primarily in the area of strategic policy and planning. However, I would like to take this opportunity to point out that this government has moved positively in the area of dental care. When the Liberal Party first brought forth these proposals in 1985, the intention was to serve two target groups: one, elementary school children; and two, senior citizens receiving guaranteed annual income system for the aged and homebound and institutionalized seniors.

Our first step was to introduce a dental program for elementary school children whose families were unable to pay for urgently needed treatment, effective this September. Public health unit dental staff is identifying children in need of urgent dental treatment during the annual screening programs in schools this fall and is advising parents of children with problems that financial assistance is now available.

We recognize the importance of dental care for seniors and that some seniors are financially unable to obtain dental treatment. Accordingly, last July, when the then Minister of Health, the member for Bruce (Mr. Elston), introduced the dental treatment program for elementary school children, he announced his intention to reconvene the advisory committee on dental care to assess the dental needs of seniors.

This morning, as was mentioned, my colleague the Minister of Health announced the advisory committee's terms of reference and composition. I am pleased that my office will be

involved in this committee's work, as will a representative from the United Senior Citizens of Ontario. The work undertaken by the committee should provide the necessary research to help us develop an effective dental care program for

those seniors in need. I refer you to my colleague the Minister of Health for the specifics on this issue.

The House adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*

(130 seats)

First Session, 34th Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. Lincoln M. Alexander, PC, QC

Adams, Peter (Peterborough L)
 Allen, Richard (Hamilton West NDP)
 Ballinger, William G. (Durham-York L)
 Beer, Charles (York North L)
 Black, Kenneth H. (Muskoka-Georgian Bay L)
 Bossy, Maurice L. (Chatham-Kent L)
Bradley, Hon. James J., Minister of the Environment (St. Catharines L)
 Brandt, Andrew S. (Sarnia PC)
 Breaugh, Michael J. (Oshawa NDP)
 Brown, Michael A. (Algoma-Manitoulin L)
 Bryden, Marion (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
 Callahan, Robert V. (Brampton South L)
 Campbell, Sterling (Sudbury L)
Caplan, Hon. Elinor, Minister of Health (Orillia L)
 Carrothers, Douglas A. (Oakville South L)
 Charlton, Brian A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)
 Chiarelli, Robert (Ottawa West L)
 Cleary, John C. (Cornwall L)
 Collins, Shirley (Wentworth East L)
Conway, Hon. Sean G., Minister of Mines (Renfrew North L)
 Cooke, David R. (Kitchener L)
 Cooke, David S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
 Cordiano, Joseph (Lawrence L)
 Cousens, W. Donald (Markham PC)
 Cureatz, Sam L. (Durham East PC)
Curling, Hon. Alvin, Minister of Skills Development (Scarborough North L)
 Daigeler, Hans (Nepean L)
 Dietsch, Michael M. (St. Catharines-Brock L)
Eakins, Hon. John F., Minister of Municipal Affairs (Victoria-Haliburton L)
Edighoffer, Hon. Hugh A., Speaker (Perth L)
 Elliot, R. Walter (Halton North L)
Elston, Hon. Murray J., Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Bruce L)
 Epp, Herbert A. (Waterloo North L)
 Eves, Ernie L. (Parry Sound PC)
 Farnan, Michael (Cambridge NDP)
 Faubert, Frank (Scarborough-Ellesmere L)
 Fawcett, Joan M. (Northumberland L)
 Ferraro, Rick E. (Guelph L)
 Fleet, David (High Park-Swansea L)
Fontaine, Hon. René, Minister of Northern Development (Cochrane North L)

Fulton, Hon. Ed, Minister of Transportation (Scarborough East L)
 Furlong, Allan W. (Durham Centre L)
Grandmaitre, Hon. Bernard C., Minister of Revenue (Ottawa East L)
 Grier, Ruth A. (Etobicoke-Lakeshore NDP)
 Haggerty, Ray (Niagara South L)
 Hampton, Howard (Rainy River NDP)
 Harris, Michael D. (Nipissing PC)
 Hart, Christine E. (York East L)
 Henderson, D. James (Etobicoke-Humber L)
Hošek, Hon. Chaviva, Minister of Housing (Oakwood L)
 Jackson, Cameron (Burlington South PC)
 Johnson, Jack (Wellington PC)
 Johnston, Richard F. (Scarborough West NDP)
 Kanter, Ron (St. Andrew-St. Patrick L)
Kerrio, Hon. Vincent G., Minister of Natural Resources (Niagara Falls L)
 Keyes, Kenneth A. (Kingston and the Islands L)
 Kozyra, Taras B. (Port Arthur L)
Kwinter, Hon. Monte, Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Wilson Heights L)
 Laughren, Floyd (Nickel Belt NDP)
 LeBourdais, Linda (Etobicoke West L)
 Leone, Laureano (Downsview L)
 Lipsett, Ron (Grey L)
 Lupusella, Tony (Dovercourt L)
 MacDonald, Keith (Prince Edward-Lennox L)
 Mackenzie, Bob (Hamilton East NDP)
 Mahoney, Steven W. (Mississauga West L)
Mancini, Hon. Remo, Minister without Portfolio (Essex South L)
 Marland, Margaret (Mississauga South PC)
 Martel, Shelley (Sudbury East NDP)
 Matrundola, Gino (Willowdale L)
 McCague, George R. (Simcoe West PC)
 McClelland, Carman (Brampton North L)
 McGuigan, James F. (Essex-Kent L)
 McGuinty, Dalton J. (Ottawa South L)
 McLean, Allan K. (Simcoe East PC)
McLeod, Hon. Lyn, Minister of Colleges and Universities (Fort William L)
 Miclash, Frank (Kenora L)
 Miller, Gordon I. (Norfolk L)
 Morin, Gilles E. (Carleton East L)
 Morin-Strom, Karl E. (Sault Ste. Marie NDP)

Munro, Hon. Lily O., Minister of Culture and Communications (Hamilton Centre L)

Neumann, David E. (Brantford L)

Nicholas, Cindy (Scarborough Centre L)

Nixon, J. Bradford (York Mills L)

Nixon, Hon. Robert F., Deputy Premier, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics and Minister of Financial Institutions (Brant-Haldimand L)

Offer, Steven (Mississauga North L)

O'Neil, Hon. Hugh P., Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Quinte L)

O'Neill, Yvonne (Ottawa-Rideau L)

Owen, Bruce (Simcoe Centre L)

Patten, Hon. Richard, Minister of Government Services (Ottawa Centre L)

Pelissero, Harry E. (Lincoln L)

Peterson, Hon. David R., Premier and President of the Council and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (London Centre L)

Philip, Ed (Etobicoke-Rexdale NDP)

Phillips, Hon. Gerry, Minister of Citizenship (Scarborough-Agincourt L)

Poirier, Jean, Deputy Speaker and Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House (Prescott and Russell L)

Pollock, Jim (Hastings-Peterborough PC)

Polsinelli, Claudio (Yorkview L)

Poole, Dianne (Eglinton L)

Pope, Alan W. (Cochrane South PC)

Pouliot, Gilles (Lake Nipigon NDP)

Rae, Bob (York South NDP)

Ramsay, Hon. David, Minister of Correctional Services (Timiskaming L)

Ray, Michael C. (Windsor-Walkerville L)

Reville, David (Riverdale NDP)

Reycraft, Douglas R. (Middlesex L)

Riddell, Hon. Jack, Minister of Agriculture and Food (Huron L)

Roberts, Marietta L. D., Deputy Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House (Elgin L)

Runciman, Robert W. (Leeds-Grenville PC)

Ruprecht, Tony (Parkdale L)

Scott, Hon. Ian G., Attorney General (St. George-St. David L)

Smith, David W. (Lambton L)

Smith, Hon. E. Joan, Solicitor General (London South L)

Sola, John (Mississauga East L)

Sorbara, Hon. Gregory S., Minister of Labour (York Centre L)

South, Larry (Frontenac-Addington L)

Sterling, Norman W. (Carleton PC)

Stoner, Norah (Durham West L)

Sullivan, Barbara (Halton Centre L)

Swart, Mel (Welland-Thorold NDP)

Sweeney, Hon. John, Minister of Community and Social Services (Kitchener-Wilmot L)

Tatham, Charlie (Oxford L)

Van Horne, Ronald G. (London North L)

Velshi, Murad (Don Mills L)

Villeneuve, Noble (Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry PC)

Ward, Hon. Christopher C., Minister of Education (Wentworth North L)

Wildman, Bud (Algoma NDP)

Wilson, Hon. Mavis, Minister without Portfolio (Dufferin-Peel L)

Wiseman, Douglas J. (Lanark-Renfrew PC)

Wong, Hon. Robert C., Minister of Energy (Fort York L)

Wrye, Hon. William, Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Windsor-Sandwich L)

*The alphabetical list of members appears in each issue. Lists of the members of the executive council, parliamentary assistants and members of committees, brought up to date as necessary, are published in Hansard in the first and last issues of each session and on the first sitting day of each month.

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No. 8

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

First Session, 34th Parliament

Wednesday, November 18, 1987

Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer

Clerk of the House: Claude L. DesRosiers

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Wednesday, November 18, 1987

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

Prayers.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE

Mr. Swart: I would like to remind this House that the Minister of Financial Institutions (Mr. R. F. Nixon) assured Ontarians that insurance companies have voluntarily complied with a freeze on automobile insurance rates. My assistant checked this out and was given the same assurance when he contacted the superintendent of insurance. In addition, Mr. Weir told him that if details of individual cases were forwarded to him, he would "pursue them with the insurance companies involved and bring to bear his moral suasion over those companies."

Unfortunately, when the people of Ontario make their own inquiries, the story changes quite dramatically. John Briggs of Toronto recently received a renewal notice from his insurance company. Although he had had no accidents, claims or traffic violations, his premiums were increased by seven per cent. When Mr. Briggs called the superintendent, he was told by the individual on the phone that the superintendent's office was aware that "not all companies are complying with the freeze." He was further informed that there are another 250 insurance companies on the market and he was advised to shop around. No offer was made, as was made to my assistant, who identified himself, to pursue his case with the insurance company involved.

It is bad enough that this government refuses to take effective action to end this highway robbery. It is even worse when that same government parrots the line of the Insurance Bureau of Canada. When this government engages in this sort of doubletalk to protect the very companies which transferred profits to the Liberal election coffers, it has gone too far and is not worthy of the trust or respect of the very people it has sworn to represent and protect.

GEORGE BELL

Mr. McLean: I would like to draw the attention of the members of this Legislature to the fact that our world-class Toronto Blue Jays have

in their lineup the most valuable player in the entire American League in the person of George Bell. This MVP award marks the first occasion the award has gone to a player on a Canadian-based ball club.

At the risk of being slightly immodest, I take a certain degree of pleasure in reminding the members of this House that the former Progressive Conservative leader, Bill Davis, was most instrumental in bringing major league baseball to Ontario.

The MVP award is indeed a credit that belongs to George Bell. This very high honour is a personal honour to the prowess of Mr. Bell, but our tributes should go out as well to the Blue Jays management, owners, sponsors and fans and his teammates.

The highest honour for a major league ballplayer will only heighten the awareness to the world of our wonderful province. George Bell has won the award, but all of Ontario will stand to gain from what we can expect will be an influx of tourism to our province.

This may well be a mixed metaphor, but the ball is now in the court of this government to ensure that all of Ontario will benefit. I want to say I do not want to see them strike out, be caught between the bases or thrown out of the ballpark—but out of office, yes.

LATVIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

Mr. Ruprecht: November 18 is an important date in the history of freedom-loving peoples everywhere and of special significance to our citizens of Latvian ancestry, for today is the commemoration of the 69th anniversary of the 1918 proclamation of Latvia as a sovereign and democratic nation.

We who live in a democratic society do not always appreciate our good fortune. We take for granted our freedom of speech, of press, religion and travel, and even the right to openly criticize our government.

The courageous determination of the Latvian people to regain this kind of freedom is a source of inspiration to all mankind. Indeed, having tasted freedom, neither the weapons of starvation nor prison walls could extinguish the torch of

freedom and hope that has been resolutely passed on from one heroic generation to another.

Those who came to Canada from Latvia have made important contributions to the development of our province and country and to the enrichment of our culture.

Today we have reason to admire the unbreakable spirit of optimism and hope of our Latvian friends that, in spite of past tragic events, they maintain the ideal of democracy and independence and their dream that Latvians will one day determine their own future and determine their own destiny.

It is with great pleasure that we extend the heartiest congratulations and best wishes to our friends as they commemorate Latvian Independence Day.

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Mr. R. F. Johnston: This morning's papers, both the *Globe and Mail* and the *Toronto Star*, ran stories about great surprise about welfare levels being high in Ontario while the unemployment rates are still low. In fact, the *Globe and Mail* went so far as to say that in 10 years of analysis this is the first time anybody has drawn attention to this or noticed this fact, which of course would make some sense in that the Ministry of Community and Social Services is so lax about gathering statistics.

I, on the other hand, did this, as the minister may recall, in February 1986, pointing out this phenomenon and suggesting that it was due to many causes which should be investigated.

Unfortunately, what happens is that, off the top of their heads, the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) and others extrapolate intolerably, in my view, as to what the causes of this are when they have no statistical basis upon which to base it. Ms. Harrington in the *Toronto Star* then says it is due to an in-migration of people from other provinces, with no statistical basis for that, I suggest. It is also suggested in the *Globe and Mail* that people are dying to get off minimum wage and on welfare because they can live so handsomely. Again, there is no statistical base for that.

I suggest it is perhaps time, because of this unfortunate phenomenon in the province, that the Minister of Community and Social Services gather this information, publish the information and take steps to co-ordinate efforts with our employment agencies in Ontario to make sure we end this terrible tragedy and not to lay blame around the province.

OPERATION FALCON

Mr. Pollock: Many questions must be answered by this government with respect to the serious problem raised in the House yesterday about Ontario's role in Operation Falcon.

How could illegal American investigations continue in Canada for a year without Ontario's knowledge? Why were two fast-talking, admitted liars and smugglers allowed to escape criminal charges by federal and provincial authorities? Why did 96 charges against Canadians fail to produce one single conviction?

Why did Ontario's Ministry of Natural Resources staff print and circulate a confidential intelligence report on wildlife agencies across Canada and slander innocent people like Kay McKeever, known to conservationists as the Owl Lady and winner of the Order of Canada in 1986; the Dailley family, who own the African Lion Safari near Hamilton; and John Heppes of the Canadian Wildlife Service, who is Canadian administrator of the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada?

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Why did the ministry refuse to retract that intelligence report when it became public or even to issue an apology? Why has the ministry refused to disclose the cost of Operation Falcon? Why has the minister refused to take any steps to protect the integrity of the innocent or his own ministry staff by way of a full public response? The people of Ontario deserve a formal investigation to find out these answers. I call on the Premier (Mr. Peterson) to order one today.

STOMACH BITTERS

Mr. Reville: The throne speech reveals that this government is long on concern but short on action. To use the baseball image, I guess we would say, "Good worry; no act." Sometimes the consequences of this lack of action are simply disappointment among those of us who hoped for better. Sometimes the consequences of the lack of action, in fact, are the deaths of people in Ontario. I speak about the lack of action on the part of this government and, in particular, on the part of the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations to deal with the very vexing problem of the abuse of stomach bitters.

The former Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations, who is glancing at me at this moment, indicated solemnly in this House in December 1985 that he was looking at the problem of stomach bitters. While he looked at it, people in Ontario, particularly in Toronto,

continued to die from overdoses of stomach bitters.

It is not an easy problem to deal with substances that have a legitimate use but are abused. However, it is a problem and it is a problem that must be addressed. One wonders where the member for Parkdale (Mr. Ruprecht) has been on this issue, because most of the people who die from stomach bitters do so in Parkdale, but it is not confined to Parkdale. This government must act now to prevent people who are vulnerable from dying because of government inaction.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I would like to report to the House today on a number of important issues associated with the Treasurer's responsibilities. In particular, I would like to provide some comments on the federal tax reform proposals. I will also be announcing the level of transfer payments to hospitals, schools, municipalities, colleges and universities for the 1988-89 fiscal year. To begin, however, I would like to review this year's economic performance as well as Ontario's fiscal position.

ONTARIO ECONOMY

Hon. R. F. Nixon: For the past five years, the Ontario economy has experienced one of its strongest expansions on record. We are now in the 21st consecutive quarter of growth. During this time, real output has grown by more than 32 per cent and employment has grown by 19 per cent.

Current economic data indicate that the economy is fundamentally sound. There have been steady gains in employment and income. A survey by Statistics Canada indicates that business investment will rise by more than 13 per cent in 1987 over 1986 levels. As a result, nonresidential investment in the province should exceed the \$25-billion level. This investment will reinforce future growth and support job creation in the province.

Based on current performance, economic growth in 1987 will be stronger than forecast in the budget. In real terms, the Ontario economy is expected to grow by 3.9 per cent this year. In line with the stronger growth of the economy, employment is even more robust than anticipated. Job creation for 1987 is expected to average over 140,000. The unemployment rate, which has displayed a downward trend throughout the year, will average 6.2 per cent in 1987. It is

currently 5.7 per cent, the lowest it has been in the past decade.

In recent weeks, the disruption in world stock exchanges has injected a sobering note in the economy's expansion. Households and businesses are faced with a heightened level of uncertainty. As a result, they can be expected to exercise prudence and caution in their spending decisions. However, it is generally believed that the stock market decline reflected overvaluation in that market and not necessarily a loss of confidence in the underlying economic performance.

The fundamental strength of the Ontario economy remains intact. Moreover, the general economic effects of the loss of stock values have been counterbalanced, in part, by interest rate and exchange rate declines. Accordingly, Ontario's economy will continue to grow during the next year.

In December, I will be tabling the Economic and Fiscal Review prepared by Treasury staff. It will include an assessment of the current economic situation and the economic outlook for 1988 and beyond. This document will assist the standing committee on finance and economic affairs in its prebudget deliberations.

The second-quarter Ontario Finances publication shows that the 1987 budget plan is on track. I am pleased that this mid-year report shows the level of net cash requirements at \$973 million for 1987-88, \$7 million below the original budget estimate. The operating deficit is now forecast at \$15 million, an improvement of \$13 million over the budget plan.

FEDERAL TAX REFORM PROPOSALS

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Last summer the federal government tabled its proposals for tax reform, a two-stage process that would change personal and corporate income taxes in 1988 and federal sales taxes at some future date.

Members will be aware that the federal standing committee on finance and economic affairs, the Blenkarn committee, has just tabled its report. The report contains several alternative recommendations to the federal Minister of Finance's proposals. The Ontario standing committee on finance and economic affairs has not yet had an opportunity to review and offer advice on the white paper proposals, particularly their impact on Ontario. I hope the committee will have an opportunity to undertake that review.

My intention is to continue to study the federal changes and to listen to the advice of interested individuals and groups about the appropriateness of the reforms. Ontario's response to these

changes will be guided by the need to maintain the ability of the tax system to deliver adequate revenues in a fair, competitive and simple fashion.

The current tax system is not as fair as it could be. Too many people and corporations have been able to avoid their fair share of tax by taking advantage of tax breaks that have been built into the system over time. Reform must address this problem.

Canadian businesses compete in world markets. While many factors determine how well a corporation's products and services stack up against the rest of the world's, the tax regime within which a corporation operates is important. Historically, the Canadian tax system has proved to be competitive, in large part because of its treatment of investment undertaken by the manufacturing sector. We must ensure that reform does not jeopardize this competitive position.

Earlier this month, I had an opportunity to share some of my thoughts and concerns with the federal and provincial ministers of finance. I indicated that broadening tax bases and lowering tax rates will help to achieve the goals of fairness and competitiveness. It really means that our tax rates are competitive or lower than American jurisdictions, and businesses can therefore see their way on a business plan to locate here rather than elsewhere, in response to the comment from the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. B. Rae).

I asked Mr. Wilson to consider the growing concern that middle-income families gain the least from reform. I also left with him a number of other personal, corporate and sales tax issues that have been brought to my attention. I intend to continue the dialogue on these issues at our next meeting in early December.

The personal income tax reform proposals would remove a number of the lowest-income tax filers from the tax rolls, including 300,000 in Ontario. This is a positive step and improves the fairness of the tax system. It was for precisely this reason that Ontario enriched its tax reduction program in the two most recent budgets.

The federal reform proposals call for a cut in federal personal income tax beginning in 1988. Since Ontario's personal income tax is calculated as 50 per cent of federal tax, this means a reduction in Ontario's personal income tax revenues as well. Even by federal estimates, which seem conservative, Ontario's personal income tax revenues for that year would decline by at least \$430 million as a direct result of

federal actions. I am currently examining how best to cope with this fiscal impact.

I should interject that the package, as presented by the Minister of Finance, if enacted, would essentially be neutral for the first two years in Ontario because of increases in corporation income tax revenues.

Federal tax reform will also affect a number of Ontario tax-based support programs for lower-income citizens. The Ontario tax credits, tax reduction and Ontario health insurance plan premium assistance all provide benefits to individuals based on their taxable income. Reform changes most people's taxable income, primarily by converting deductions to tax credits. Ontario must restructure these important assistance programs; otherwise, most current beneficiaries would no longer be eligible.

I am reviewing options to restore the distribution of benefits in a progressive and simple fashion, but to do this, more flexibility will be required than is currently available under the tax collection agreement with Ottawa. I have asked the federal minister to provide provinces with greater freedom under these agreements to design and implement better tax and support policies for their citizens.

1350

We are going to continue to examine the impact of free trade on Ontario's economy. In this context, tax reform must support Ontario's competitive position, particularly in terms of our corporate income tax structure. A more competitive tax system requires a broader base, lower rates and a fairer distribution of the burden among profitable corporations. Tax uniformity and reduced compliance costs for business are important goals, but these objectives must not be achieved at the expense of economic growth potential.

Federal tax reform proposals also need to be carefully examined in light of this government's priorities for improved education, more affordable housing and the adoption of new technology. Federal reform proposals must be judged in terms of how well they achieve the broader economic and social priorities of Canada and Ontario.

The final details of stage one of the federal reform package will not be known until the federal position is made clear in Parliament, which is expected in the next few weeks. Once I see the legislation and assess the full impact of corporate tax reform on several key areas, I will be in a better position to determine the extent to

which Ontario is able to parallel the federal proposals in the Ontario corporate tax structure.

The review of a possible corporate tax collection agreement with the federal government continues. There are compliance benefits for business in such an agreement, but there are also implications for our ability to retain control over Ontario's fiscal and economic policy. I have commissioned a study to help me assess this important issue and will report the finding to the House in about three months.

The Wilson tax paper proposes a multistage national sales tax to replace the federal manufacturers' sales tax and the provincial retail sales tax. Many concerns have been expressed about the possible impact of a new, broad-based sales tax on low-income Canadians. This government will not enter into an agreement on a new national sales tax unless we are provided the flexibility to ensure its fair application for low-income individuals and families through a system of tax credits or exemptions.

As well, a multistage tax could result in significant cost increases for the public sector, including local governments, hospitals, colleges and universities. I have asked the federal minister to provide either a plan for a tax-free approach or an appropriate compensation mechanism for provincial and other public sector transactions, should this new tax be implemented.

Supporters of a multistage sales tax believe that there would be significant economic benefits to be realized if such a tax were to replace the existing, poorly designed federal manufacturers' sales tax. They cite the multistage sales tax's fairness and the improved competitive position for the Canadian business sector. Business also believes that a joint federal-provincial sales tax would be simpler and could lower compliance costs.

To ensure that our concerns are addressed and that the potential benefits are substantiated, staff will continue discussions with federal officials on the proposal. I bring these issues to the attention of the Legislature because it is important that members be aware of the impending substantial revisions in the Canadian and Ontario tax systems. I view tax reform as an opportunity to make our tax system fairer, simpler, and of course, more equitable.

TRANSFER PAYMENTS

Hon. R. F. Nixon: On November 3, 1986, I announced the funding levels for major transfer programs for our current fiscal year. The budget, presented to the House on May 20, 1987,

contained the necessary funding provisions. Today I would like to announce fiscal transfers for the 1988-89 fiscal year which begins next April 1.

The fundamentals of the Ontario economy remain strong. However, there are some risks surrounding the outlook for the world's major economies, which make forward planning complicated for business and for families. The same uncertainty affects government finances and accentuates the need for wide and thorough consultations as I prepare the next budget for presentation to the House in the spring of 1988.

The five major transfer payments I am announcing today are made up of operating support to hospitals, schools, universities and colleges and a range of grants to municipalities. These payments amount to more than 40 per cent of the whole provincial expenditures. With such a large share of expenditures committed in this way several months prior to the actual budget tabling and the beginning of the next fiscal year, we must plan carefully in order to retain the fiscal flexibility to adapt to changing circumstances.

At the same time, I have to consider the situation of the public institutions that receive these major transfer payments. They also have to plan. Municipalities and school boards must set their budgets and mill rates for their fiscal year which begins January 1. Hospitals and post-secondary institutions need a basis on which to ensure quality service to the public. In the past two years, the province has strengthened its partnership with these important institutions, and we must continue to share in our common goals with the resources available to us.

With these factors in mind, I have decided to continue the government's practice of making early announcements of the major transfer payment levels. As noted in the recent speech from the throne, the government will meet the commitments it has made within a framework of fiscal responsibility.

In 1988-89, grants to universities will increase by 6.7 per cent to more than \$1.5 billion. This amount includes special funding to assure accessibility for all qualified students in recognition of recent enrolment increases. Grants to colleges of applied arts and technology will increase by a total of six per cent to more than \$660 million, including special funding for northern colleges and special-needs students.

The Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan) will soon be making an announcement regarding hospital funding, which will exceed \$5.4 billion in 1988-89. Resources available to hospitals for

their costs of operation will increase by 6.9 per cent in 1988-89.

Operating grants to school boards, to be funded by next year's budget, will increase by 6.8 per cent to more than \$3.8 billion. This amount incorporates the full extension of provincial support to separate schools, and initial funding to implement the government's commitment to reduce class size in elementary schools.

Transfer payments to the municipal sector will increase by 6.7 per cent to almost \$4.1 billion overall. Details of specific municipal grant programs will be announced over the next few weeks.

My colleagues will provide further information in a timely manner so that individual institutions will soon be aware of their own grant levels.

Last year, Treasury staff and I benefited from the advice received from the new standing committee on finance and economic affairs. The prebudget hearings held by the committee were a valued innovation in opening the budget process to wider public participation.

I look forward to hearing the views of members on the issues I have raised today and other budgetary matters as I begin preparation for the next budget, to be read in the spring of 1988.

PRESCOTT-RUSSELL SCHOOL BOARDS

Hon. Mr. Ward: I am pleased to inform the members today of the release of the report of the Prescott-Russell School Board Study Committee. I am tabling it with the Clerk.

Ten months ago, the committee undertook the task of addressing the needs of Prescott-Russell. Implementation of Bills 30 and 75 in the area was offering a complex challenge.

Prescott-Russell is a unique situation in Ontario; its residents are predominantly French speaking and the majority are supporters of the Roman Catholic separate school system.

Guided by the principles of Bills 30 and 75, and respecting the requirements of the Canadian Constitution and Charter of Rights, the committee was asked to recommend procedures for the creation of stable and representative school board structures for the Prescott-Russell community.

During its hearings, the committee received 50 presentations and accepted 94 briefs.

Le résultat de ces démarches fait l'objet d'un rapport exhaustif sur les besoins de la population de Prescott-Russell. Mon ministère étudiera attentivement le rapport du comité et les recommandations qu'il contient.

I wish to thank the chairman, Marc Godbout, his committee members, Frank Addario, Simon Brisbois and their staff for their dedicated hard work.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: In view of the fact that the statement of the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) is a major one covering economic issues, transfer issues, tax issues and federal tax issues, I wonder whether we could have unanimous consent of the House to allow each opposition party to have 10 minutes to respond to a major statement. We do not very often have major statements of this kind; I am asking for unanimous consent.

Mr. Speaker: There has been a request for unanimous consent to extend the time allotted by the standing orders by five minutes for each opposition party.

Hon. Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, observing the interest of the opposition and also noting that the standing orders do set out very clear provisions in this respect, limiting ministerial statements to a maximum of 20 minutes and members' statements to a maximum of 10 minutes, I certainly would not want to curtail debate, and so we have no objection to the honourable member's position.

Mr. Speaker: Is there unanimous consent?

Agreed to.

1400

Ms. Bryden: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: As the previous speaker noted, since the statement of the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) covers both Treasury matters and Revenue matters, as well as a good many other matters that concern a lot of the members, it would have been appropriate at least to provide the Revenue critic with a copy of the statement—there is none on my desk—and possibly to provide all members with a copy of the statement prior to its delivery.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: On the point of order: We were fairly careful to see that copies were provided to the leaders and the Treasury critics. They might have shared those. Next time I will certainly see that Revenue critics get it as well. Frankly, copies of this are now being made available to everybody here, as far as I know, because every member of the House is deeply involved in this important matter.

Mr. Speaker: I think the standing orders are quite clear.

RESPONSES

TRANSFER PAYMENTS

Mr. B. Rae: I welcome the statement of the Treasurer today. First, I want to say I think it is

only appropriate that he would announce the transfers as he has done, because of the uncertainty which he himself created along with his seatmate, the Premier (Mr. Peterson). In a sense, he is the victim of his own problems, having panicked as a result of the so-called Black Monday on the stock market and created as much uncertainty as his remarks caused in a great many municipalities, hospitals and school boards. It is perfectly obvious that the Treasurer had no alternative but to now assure those school boards and others that transfer payments would be forthcoming.

My colleagues will be responding to some comments made with respect to the transfer payments. If I could start with those, the one comment I would make is that it is very difficult for us to respond to the simple bald number, except by saying that if one looks, for example, at the area of the school boards, which my colleague the member for Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston) will be commenting on, when one takes into account the fact that this 6.8 per cent increase includes both the additional cost of separate school funding as well as what is described here as "the initial funding"—I do not know what that means—"to implement the government's commitment to reduce class size in elementary schools," it is clear that the rest of the system will not be seeing a substantial increase.

We can only say that until we get the fine-tuned numbers from the Ministry of Education, it is going to be difficult for us to launch a full-scale critique, which I know the Treasurer wants to have from us. It is very difficult for us to comment on those numbers in the absence of any sense of what the priorities of the government are and precisely where this money is being spent.

ONTARIO ECONOMY

Mr. B. Rae: Let me comment on the Treasurer's overall statement with respect to the economy. I guess the major comment I would make is that his choice of statistics is interestingly selective, because while he reflects the official conventional wisdom of the day that everything is going extremely well, the deficit is down a little bit—I will be speaking to that—the rate of unemployment continues to fall—which we, of course, all welcome—and the degree of growth has been substantial—it has really been remarkable in the last five years and continues to be very substantial—it is remarkable not because the Treasurer is doing anything differently than any other Minister of Finance will do. In fact, the longer he occupies that august office, except for

perhaps the occasional sartorial lapse on his part, he resembles more and more the fiscal conservative that he used to decry so often when he was on this side of the House.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Should I wear a three-piece, double-breasted suit?

Mr. B. Rae: Perhaps a watch chain would be appropriate on days as sombre as this. He is sounding like Calvin Coolidge, but he has not started to look like him yet.

There is another face to what is going on in the province today. There is the face of the fact that today there are still kids in the province who are going to school hungry. There are thousands of people who are homeless. Yes, it is true that Jaguar sales are up. In fact, anybody looking around town will find that there are more and more of these luxury cars from Europe being sold and bought in the province, some of them, in fact, even belonging to very distinguished members of the Treasurer's own party.

But the fact remains that what is also happening at the same time is that the number of people who are waiting to get into Ontario Housing has increased by 50 per cent since this government took office, the number of children who are hungry and homeless has increased since this government took office and the food bank, which now services over 130 agencies in the city of Toronto today, issued a report last month showing that 20 per cent of its clients are under the age of five.

I think it is time, when the Treasurer of this province makes a statement as to what the economic health of this province is, that he talk about some of those economic realities, not simply the official statistics as they emerged from Statistics Canada, but about what it is like on the street today in this province and what hardships people are facing, because those too are statistics that mean something to people and that reflect the reality of life in the province.

Yes, it is true that we are more affluent than ever before, but the irony that we have today—and it is the first time in post-war history that we can say it—is that as affluence grows, so is poverty growing in the province today, and we are not addressing that issue, the Legislature is not being asked to address that issue and the Treasurer has not addressed that issue. That, to me, is something which should be addressed at the heart of a Treasurer's report in the province today: what is happening to people, what is happening to their working conditions and what is happening to real wages.

I think it is fair to say that at the same time as we have a decline in the rate of unemployment, we also have the reality that people who themselves are employed are going to these food banks because the minimum wage does not allow them to keep body and soul together.

The Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) announced last week an eight per cent increase in the shelter allowance for people who are on general welfare benefits and family benefits. I say to the minister and to the Treasurer that when we have as much as two thirds or three quarters of that allowance being used for shelter in Ontario today, which is what is happening, we can rest assured that what working families and poor families are being asked to do is take from the pot that should be going to food and they are being forced to put it into housing. There are people who are going hungry today simply because this province has not figured out a way of distributing its income properly.

So I look forward to hearing from the Treasurer in December as he prepares his Economic and Fiscal Review. I only hope and expect that review would in fact indicate just exactly what is happening with respect to the real economy in the province today and what is happening to working people.

FEDERAL TAX REFORM PROPOSALS

Mr. B. Rae: I have one comment to make on the sales tax issue with respect to the statement that the minister has made on tax reform. It is fundamentally this: I have not heard a clear statement from the Treasurer as to whether or not he believes that corporations should be paying a larger share, which is the thrust of both Mr. Wilson's statement and Mr. Blenkarn's report. If what I have heard from him today is correct, he has managed to place himself to the right of Don Blenkarn. As somebody who knows Don Blenkarn, I can only congratulate the Treasurer for occupying that turf, because I do not think any political analyst thought there was any ground there to occupy, but he is managing to stake it out.

The Treasurer should listen to the comments he is making in this report. He is saying that our corporate tax structure has to match and, in fact, be lower than that of the United States. This is a government that is objecting to free trade. At the same time it is objecting to free trade, it is saying, "We must have free trade in taxation in order to be able to compete," which means that the Minister of Economics for Ontario, the person

who is going to be setting our tax rate in Ontario, is not the Honourable Robert Nixon, the Treasurer, it is Ronald Reagan in the United States. That is essentially what the Treasurer is saying.

All I can say is, if that is his message to Ottawa, he is indeed delivering a mixed message. The message he seems to be delivering to Ottawa is, "Go easy on the corporate tax side, because if you do anything too tough to require insurance companies and banks to start paying some tax, there are going to be problems."

So I am glad the Treasurer made the statement. I am glad we have had a few moments to comment on it. It is obvious that it is going to be the subject of some considerable debate in this province for some time to come.

1410

PRESCOTT-RUSSELL SCHOOL BOARDS

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I have just a couple of comments on the statement by the Minister of Education (Mr. Ward) on the report of the Prescott-Russell School Board Study Committee. I am pleased to have the statement. I notice there was no discussion by the minister of the content of the statement, and I presume that means it is problematic and that he is being confronted with some difficult choices, as the people in Prescott-Russell have been for these many years, in terms of the role of a French board there. As yet, I have not had a chance to review it in detail, so I am not able to respond at this time to the detail.

I would like to say, though, that it is welcome that it has come, that it is time for us to deal with it and that it is also time we heard from the government about what it is doing about other French-language boards across the province. We were told there would be a two-year study of French school boards across the province, and we have yet to hear anything further about when that is going to be undertaken and who is to head it up.

Mr. Speaker: There are just seven seconds left. Did the member for Beaches-Woodbine want to put something in there?

Ms. Bryden: The Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) has not made clear—

Mr. Speaker: The member's time has expired.

Mr. Harris: She can have a couple of minutes of our time, if she wants.

ONTARIO ECONOMY

Mr. Harris: I do want to comment briefly on the economic statement. As indicated by the

Leader of the Opposition (Mr. B. Rae), we are going to have to wait and see the specifics of a number of these things to find out whether in fact the transfers are going to mean anything or whether they are not going to mean anything.

I do want to comment briefly, though, on a few of the things that are mentioned in the statement by the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon). He says, "In real terms, the Ontario economy is expected to grow by 3.9 per cent." I point that out because if we add inflation and the growth in the economy to the money likely available to the Treasurer, we are probably looking at somewhere in the order of another eight or nine per cent increase in revenues over the next year for this Treasurer and for this government.

None of the transfers that we just heard announced comes anywhere close to that, so the first thing that jumps out at me is that the Treasurer does not intend to pass on, through his transfers to those agencies, nearly the increase in the amount of money that he and the government of Ontario are going to get. He has not done that in the past, either.

Whoever gets the biggest piece of money is always the Treasurer and the government; somehow it does not go towards the deficit. A little bit has gone towards the deficit—some 10 per cent of his increased revenues go in that direction—but it is really a disgrace when we take a look at the amount of money that he has had over this period of time.

So what the Treasurer is telling us is that his revenues will go up by the rate of inflation, whatever that is going to be; most people say five per cent. Of course, in the city of Toronto, if we look at the municipal transfers, inflation in Toronto is running at 5.9 per cent, the highest in the province, so what the Treasurer has really said to them is, "We will transfer to you 0.8 per cent." With inflation in Toronto running at 5.9 per cent, he is going to transfer 6.7 per cent. So the city of Toronto will get 0.8 per cent. The Treasurer tells us the economic activity is going to be up 3.9 per cent, so he is going to grab three per cent from the city of Toronto to put into his own program somewhere or other.

I mention it in those terms because, of course, the Treasurer does not put it in those terms. He puts out this percentage. Yet in one part of the report he is so proud of the growth, in another part of the report he is so proud of the amount of money he is transferring and then in another part of his statement he talks about fiscal responsibility. We have not seen from the Treasurer fiscal responsibility, because all this extra money he

gets he does not pass on at a level equivalent to inflation and increase in economic activity through all the transfer payments he makes, but it still all gets eaten up somewhere in the budget, when he finally does bring out a budget.

I guess it would be passing strange of me to comment that most of the 3.9 per cent in that activity is, I am sure, based on trade and most of it trade with the United States, which I find a little ironic with the view this government has there.

I asked a question of the Treasurer last week on the \$350 million in cuts. He said, "I will have a statement to make and some of it will become clear then." When the second-quarter statements came out, I did not see anything there or anything today that tells us where the \$350 million is being cut from and the government is more than halfway through the budget plan. The Treasurer says the budget plan is on track, but where is the \$350 million in cuts? That is what will tell us if it is on track or not. Of course, that is a ridiculous statement.

The Treasurer also says in here that he is pleased that the midyear report shows the level of net cash requirements at \$973 million. It is a disgrace that there is any net cash requirement in this year or last year, and the Treasurer knows that. He says it is \$7 million below the original budget estimate. The operating deficit is now forecast at \$15 million, an improvement of \$13 million over the budget plan. What the Treasurer does not say is that after the first quarter it was an improvement of \$15 million over the budget plan, so he is referring here to the second-quarter statements. What has happened is a worsening of the position from the end of the first quarter to the second quarter. I guess he hopes he has enough of a cushion in the first quarter. He will keep referring back there instead of giving us the real picture. The government has a \$2-million deficit there between the first and the second quarter.

It is not in the statement but I found it interesting that while the Treasurer was talking about Canadian businesses competing, I think he gave a little aside that the cost of doing business in Ontario is cheaper than in the United States. I did not see it, however, in the written text. It will appear in Hansard if he does not recall having said that.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: It says on the front of the statement, "Check against delivery."

Mr. Harris: I am interested in that particular part of the Treasurer's statement because I would be interested in knowing what are all the factors he has included in there. I know many Ontario businessmen disagree with him. Many though,

quite frankly, do agree with him. The interesting point is that he believes it and he said it. If the cost of doing business in Ontario is cheaper than in the United States why he would have the slightest concern about a freer trade agreement with the United States? I just find that passing strange as well.

Mr. Sterling: It does not make sense. It does not add up.

Mr. Harris: It does not add up, of course, and in fact it is silly and it reflects the silliness of this government on free trade. They talk about how wonderful Ontario is and how we can compete, but we should be afraid of it. What does the public think and what stand should be taken to help poor, old John Turner? There are so many contradictions in the things the government does.

TRANSFER PAYMENTS

Mr. Harris: I want to allow a minute or two for my colleague the member for Burlington South (Mr. Jackson) to comment on the education transfers. When we get into the specific transfers, it is obvious that the government is not passing on all the economic activity that it is receiving and, of course, if we look at hospitals, for example, at 6.9 per cent, the lowest percentage increase, lower than 1986, lower than 1985, lower than 1984, lower than 1983, and all this great economic activity the government has, it is less than inflation plus the economic activity it is getting and is the lowest increase in the last five or six years plus. Until we see the breakdown, we do not know whether it will even be inflation on the existing programs depending on how much growth is in the system.

I mentioned the municipal transfers. It is the same problem there. What are the unconditional grants? What are not? When we see that we will be able to comment as to whether the government is even keeping up with inflation, let alone the economic activity. I will leave the education comments to our critic, my friend the member for Burlington South.

I guess the most disappointing thing of all in the statement—and I will conclude as quickly as I can—is the deficit, the total lack of control over spending. I guess maybe it is the hacks and flacks and the high-priced help, the baggage that came to this administration from Ottawa. I do not think it is the Robert Nixon I used to know, but it is the David Peterson I used to know. We have in Ontario essentially Trudeau economics: “If you have it, spend it all. If you do not have it, borrow it.” The Treasurer knows what this is going to leave in the years to come, particularly for the

young people and for those people who are going to have to pay in the future for the spending he is doing now.

I will defer to my colleague on education.

1420

Mr. Jackson: It is perhaps fitting that the news to school boards is contained on page 13 in the Treasurer’s report. It is a most unlucky number for school boards in the coming year. Last year their funding arrangement was 7.5 per cent, which included the implementation of grade 12 in accordance with Bill 30, special program enhancements and general grants. This year we are looking at 6.8 per cent, which is expected to carry not only last year’s grade 12 transfer, but also grade 13.

There is the funny statement about initial funding. What does “initial funding” mean for our elementary schoolchildren? Does it mean it is going to be only grade 1 this year, or does it mean it is going to be grades 1 and 2? The Treasurer has abandoned his commitment to 60 per cent funding. It is going to take him 100 years at this level of funding in order to honour his commitment to bring the funding levels in this province back to 60 per cent.

Hon. Mr. Riddell: I would like to ask for unanimous consent of the House to share a few words about a former member and colleague of this House who has passed away.

Mr. Speaker: Is there agreement?

Agreed to.

CHARLES MACNAUGHTON

Hon. Mr. Riddell: I regret to inform the House that Charlie MacNaughton, a former member of the provincial Parliament for Huron and former cabinet minister of the Ontario government, has passed away. I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Charlie, one of Huron county’s finest sons.

For many years Charlie was one of the leading figures in Ontario politics, playing an important role in the formation of government policy under John Robarts and Bill Davis. Charlie served as a cabinet minister for more than 11 years and held nine different posts, a number that few others have matched. He may be best remembered in his role as Provincial Treasurer from 1966 to 1971, although he also made his mark in such other portfolios as Highways and Management Board.

Charlie was instrumental in the formation of our current system of regional governments in Ontario and was also well known as a strong advocate of the free enterprise system.

Although he served the province well, Charlie always remembered his Huron county roots. Before being elected in a May 1958 by-election, Charlie had been heavily involved in the community. He was a founding member of the South Huron Hospital in Exeter and served as a member of the South Huron District High School Board for nine years, including two as chairman. After being elected, Charlie quickly gained a reputation as a solid constituency man who always had the interests of Huron county at heart.

He fought hard to keep Centralia alive and well after the federal government decided to close the Royal Canadian Air Force base in June 1966. The success of Centralia today, with its agricultural college, its industries and its residential area, is a tribute to the determination and foresight of Charlie MacNaughton.

I felt honoured to be given the opportunity to follow in the footsteps of Charlie in providing Huron county with strong representation at Queen's Park. As a matter of fact, after I was elected, I adopted as my theme song—I believe it was an old Charlie Pride song—I'm Walking in the Shoes that Charlie Wore.

Charlie was an amiable man most of the time, with a warm personality, but from time to time his temper was known to flare in the House. He had a number of memorable exchanges in the House, particularly with our current Canadian ambassador to the United Nations, Stephen Lewis, who was then of course the leader of the New Democratic Party.

I well recall an exchange he had with the present Treasurer, the member for Brant-Haldimand (Mr. R. F. Nixon), at the time of the by-election in 1973. The member for Brant-Haldimand was kind enough to come down to the riding to lend me a hand for one day. We happened to be walking down the street and he noticed this nice house. He said, "Who lives in there?" I said, "That is the home of Charlie MacNaughton." He said: "I know Charlie and Addie well. Let's drop in and pay them a visit." That is exactly what we did. Little did we know at the time that a reporter with the Exeter Times-Advocate was following on our heels and took a picture or two.

Charlie was not at home, by the way. Addie was there and we had a nice visit with her, but about midnight that night Charlie phoned the home of the member for Brant-Haldimand. He was not very happy, apparently, with the visit we had paid to Addie and he was not long in telling the member for Brant-Haldimand that he did not think it was right that he should be taking the

candidate into his home to pay Addie a visit at the time of the Huron by-election. I am sure the member for Brant-Haldimand recalls that well.

On behalf of myself, my party, the government and the people of Ontario, I offer sincere sympathy to Charlie's wife, Adeline, commonly referred to as Addie, who still lives in Exeter, as well as to his son, John, of Toronto, and his daughter, Heather, Mrs. Bill Howlitt of Windsor. He is also survived by his brother, John, of Ladysmith, British Columbia.

Charlie will be long remembered for his contribution both to the province of Ontario and the people of Huron. For the interest of those members who would like to pay their respects, please be advised that Charlie is resting at the Dinney Funeral Home in Exeter, where visitations can be made on Thursday between the hours of two and four and seven and 10. Funeral services will be conducted at the Exeter United Church on Friday at 2 p.m.

Mr. Swart: I am pleased to rise and express on behalf of my party our tribute to Charles MacNaughton. I was not a colleague of his in this House but I met him on many occasions when I was in municipal government, both when I was reeve of Thorold and warden of Welland county and on the Niagara regional government. On one or two occasions I had occasion to feel a little bit of his anger, whether it was real or contrived, but in the meetings that I and my colleagues in council had with him we found him to be fair and we found him to be knowledgeable about his ministry.

I want to pay tribute to the great contribution that he made in this Legislature and to the people of Ontario over one and a half decades. In my contact with Charles MacNaughton, I sometimes found him to be partisan, even at the municipal level, but are we not all in a partisan field? I grew to respect him over those numbers of years I knew him, and this House and this province are indebted for the contribution he made.

I, too, want to extend a genuine expression of respect and sympathy on behalf of my party to his wife and family at this time.

Mr. Harris: It is a privilege for me, even though I never knew Charlie MacNaughton, to be able to rise on behalf of our party and extend the sympathies of our party to the family.

I listened with interest to the comments that were made by both my colleagues who spoke on behalf of the government and the New Democratic Party. I do not want to repeat all the things that were said but I do not think we mentioned that Charlie came to us from Saskatchewan. He

received his education in Brandon, Manitoba. He later entered the seed business, which he operated in Brandon and Winnipeg until 1942 when, very fortunately, I believe, for us and for the people of Ontario, he moved to Ontario. He headed a very prominent seed house at Exeter before he decided to share his time and his talents with the people of Ontario.

1430

It was mentioned that Mr. MacNaughton held nine ministries. Certainly up until that time, it was more than any other person in the history of the province. I suspect that record probably holds; I did not have time to check that out, but I do not know of anybody else off the top of my head, and I guess it would have been a member of our party, who would have come close to that record.

He was in cabinet from 1961 to 1973 and was certainly one of the most respected Treasurers this province has ever had. I have an interesting quote from January 13, 1973, that I would like to read to the members; I thought the current Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) would enjoy it. It says: "Mr. MacNaughton was not the sort of man comfortable with deficits. A solid citizen of Exeter, he was attracted to political life by the policies of the late Conservative leader, George Drew."

The deficits, of course, attracted my attention, and I hold before me a budget for 1970. That is not very long ago, I say to the Treasurer and the Premier (Mr. Peterson). It is Charlie MacNaughton's budget of 1970. I thought the House might be interested in two of the figures from that budget. They will astound members by their size, I am sure. The net general revenue for 1970 was \$3,739,300,000; the net general expenditure was \$3,728,018,000. A \$10-million surplus, I guess, was budgeted in that year. Charlie MacNaughton must surely be astounded. In 1970, he was able to balance the budget. We were spending at that time \$3.7 billion, which, as was said by my leader, is the amount of money that appears to be spilled by this Treasurer from one year to the next. It is astounding.

On behalf of our caucus, we extend our appreciation to Mr. MacNaughton's wife and his family for sharing him with us and for sharing him with the province of Ontario. We too extend our sympathies to his wife and family on his passing.

Mr. Speaker: When Hansard is printed, on your behalf I will make certain that the MacNaughton family receives a copy of your words of sympathy.

MEMBER'S COMMENTS

Mr. Pouliot: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: Under standing order 19(d)11, I wish to apologize to the member for Cochrane North, the Minister of Northern Development (Mr. Fontaine), for use of insulting language during question period yesterday. I can assure the minister that there was no malice intended. However, I fully recognize and realize that language of this type is conducive to disorder. I know the minister to be most competent, sincere and dedicated. I want to thank the minister for the help he has given me in the past, but much more important, for the help he has conveyed to northerners at every opportunity.

ORAL QUESTIONS

FEDERAL TAX REFORM PROPOSALS

Mr. B. Rae: I have a question for the Treasurer. He states on page 5 of his statement, "Earlier this month, I had an opportunity to share some of my thoughts and concerns with the federal and provincial ministers of finance." He also indicates throughout the document that he has, in fact, shared a lot of information and given his points of view to the federal authorities. I wonder if the Treasurer can do us the favour of making public all the submissions that have been made by Ontario with respect to corporate and personal income taxes and with respect to tax reform.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Yes, I am able to do that.

Mr. B. Rae: That is progress. The question I want to ask the Treasurer on that score is if he can tell us precisely just what is the thrust of his recommendations with respect to corporate taxation. He will know that one of the major features of the Blenkarn report, which was released just a couple of days ago, was the clear statement that the corporations must pay a larger share with respect to the balance between corporate and personal income tax.

The Treasurer's comments would tend to indicate that he is concerned about the impact on Ontario's competitive position and about what he calls the "economic growth potential." I hope these comments would not be sending a message to the federal government that it should not be imposing a very fair, and indeed rigorous, tax on corporations that are making profits at the present time.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I had hoped really to include a good deal more information in the statement, but having to fit it into the 20-minute rule of the House, I cut out some of the details

that the honourable member is asking for. Since he has now asked for it specifically in question period, I will tell him that he will be aware that the federal white paper broadened the base of the corporation income tax substantially by removing so-called loopholes, so-called avenues for what used to be called by one of the federal parties, corporate welfare bums—a phrase I do not often use myself.

At the same time, since the base was substantially broadened, the recommendation from Mr. Wilson is that the corporation tax rate be reduced. When the government of Ontario makes any adjustments to its corporation tax rate, we have a rule that almost invariably parallels those changes, but since most of the productive corporations—let us rephrase this.

Many of the corporations that are most productive in Canada are found in Ontario. The impact of those base-broadening rules will certainly have a great impact here. One of the ones certainly that has had most of the discussion, and one that I have discussed with the other treasurers and the Minister of Finance, has been his new approach to capital cost allowance, which would have replaced a write-off over three years for manufacturing machinery and other aspects of investment with a declining write-off of 25 per cent that just keeps getting smaller and smaller until there is very little left. It would have really meant a substantial impact, not in the total tax paid by corporations over a number of years, but in the rate at which those payments would have been made.

We have been very competitive with the Americans in our capital cost allowance and this particular change would be a negative one as far as we are concerned. I have given him specific proposals for another capital cost allowance program that we—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. B. Rae: It is very difficult in the absence of a full statement by the Treasurer as to what Ontario's position has been. We have the publication of the federal report and we have the publication of the Blenkarn report. Ontario's submissions have all been made in private, but I wonder if the Treasurer can at least give us the assurance that nothing the Treasurer has recommended shows a decrease in the total amount of revenues being generated from the corporate sector under tax reform. Can he at least give us that assurance?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: The member has to remember that the revenues from corporation tax are based on the rate as well as the taxation base.

Mr. Wilson's white paper was fairly careful to make the changes neutral as far as Ontario is concerned. He did his best presumably for the other provinces, but in our instance, if no changes are made, I think our revenue goes down by something like \$30 million. We are reviewing the tax—

Mr. B. Rae: That is not what I asked.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Of course it is not, but I am going to answer the member in my own way, which is what the rules provide.

Mr. Breagh: Sorry to intrude—we didn't mean to offend.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: No, I am not offended, not at all.

1440

I want to make it clear that Mr. Wilson has met with the treasurers regularly, and I appreciate that, but the assistance I get in establishing policy comes from my colleagues, it comes from people that I ask, as far as their advice is concerned, who proffer their advice, and also from the standing committee of the Legislature. That committee has not had an opportunity to hear the views of its own committee members and other members of the House and anybody else. I am looking forward to getting a report from them.

I should respond some time, as early as possible, in 1988, but essentially by the time the spring budget is put before the honourable members, so we have some time to consider our response.

Mr. B. Rae: I suppose that is one way of answering. One way of answering is not to answer.

HOUSING ALLOCATIONS

Mr. B. Rae: I have a question of the Minister of Housing. The minister stated outside the House that the reason for the underspending of some \$50 million was that the programs that were being offered by the government were not taken up by many of the groups that were expected by the government to take them up.

Can the minister confirm that when one looks at the nonprofit and co-op housing programs, applications for those programs, plans for those programs, detailed architectural drawings and proposals from various co-op groups and nonprofit housing corporations across the province have consistently far exceeded the supply in the provincial program? Can she confirm that in 1986 they received 20,000 applications under the nonprofit program, 10,000 applications under

Project 3000 and, for 1987, 24,000 applications under the nonprofit program?

In fact, what she allocated to each of those programs was about 25 to 30 per cent of what was being asked for, at the same time as she is going outside the House and giving very misleading information to the press with respect to the government's programs and the takeup rate.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: This government has done more for housing than any other government has done before. The money that has not been spent in the past year is not lost. The commitment of \$645 million that this government has made for spending on housing will be maintained.

Mr. B. Rae: The minister has just contradicted directly the answer that the Premier (Mr. Peterson) gave yesterday. He said the money could not be carried forward. The minister today is saying that the money is not lost. One of them is telling the truth. It would be interesting to find out which one it is.

The question I have of the minister is specifically with respect to the so-called convert-to-rent program. The minister has stated that this is one of the programs that is going to continue; this is one of the programs that is one of the pillars upon which the government is directing its approach. Can the minister explain why the convert-to-rent program was one of the worst villains in the underspending department last year, at the same time as there are thousands of applications in the nonprofit program, far more applications than there is funding?

Why not take the money out of the programs that have not worked and that were not working and put it in the programs where people are applying, and do it in a way that is going to make sure that housing is brought on stream as soon as possible?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I am committed to spending the money that has been allocated on housing in the most efficient and effective way possible. It is for this reason that, when it was clear to us that the takeup in Renterprise was not as quick as we would have wanted, we decided we would reallocate that money to areas where we think the takeup would be quicker.

What I said outside the House yesterday, and I am very happy to reiterate today, is that we are always looking at all of our programs to see that they are as effective as they can possibly be in changing market conditions and that we are prepared to look at all of their effectiveness and to reallocate resources to make sure that the greatest impact and the quickest impact is felt for the people who really need the housing. They are

our primary commitment. We will use our resources as effectively as possible, and we are always looking at all of our programs to see how to do that best.

Mr. Breagh: While the minister has been very rigid with the nonprofit groups in their applications, she has been very flexible with the private sector groups in their applications.

Can the minister explain how she could say no to nonprofit groups which have their proposals in front of her and at the same time allow convert-to-rent proposals such as the one that was made to her from Ariann Developments, which operates a thing called Litwin Place at 235 Grandravine in North York?

The minister gave these people \$70,000 under the convert-to-rent program. She financed that, and they promptly turned around and sold the equity shares in those apartments which she helped to finance. It would appear to be in contravention of provincial legislation. How can she be so inflexible to nonprofit groups and so flexible that she financed private sector developments which are breaking her own laws?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: The member opposite has made a very serious allegation. I would like to see confirmation of what he has said, and we will look into it; it is very serious.

We are very interested in supporting the nonprofit and co-operative sector and have added funds to that sector in the past year. I can only repeat what I have said before. All our programs are meant to be as effective as they possibly can to deliver housing to the people who need it. If we discover that our programs are not being taken up as quickly as we would like, we are prepared to look at them and to reallocate our resources to the areas that will be most effective and quickest.

ONTARIO ECONOMY

Mr. Brandt: My question, surprisingly, is to the Treasurer. I want to ask him about the statement he makes in his release of information today—I believe it is on page 3—the comment that Ontario's economy will grow next year, a rather optimistic statement in light of some of the more recent reports that are coming out that I would like to share with the Treasurer.

The London Free Press this morning indicates that a vice-president, an economist with the Bank of Montreal, says the economy will stall in 1988. The specific quote from the economist in that particular article indicates that growth will come to "an abrupt halt" in Ontario.

I realize those two statements are a bit of a dichotomy in that the Treasurer is exhibiting a level of optimism while the economist is being somewhat more pessimistic. Was the Treasurer's statement drafted, in the context of his anticipated growth for next year, before or after Black Monday and the crash of the stock market a couple of weeks ago?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Specifically, I can tell the honourable member that the information in the statement is as up-to-date as yesterday, and my projections are based on the views and expressions of opinion and assistance of the Ministry of Economics. I am very confident those economists are effective. That does not mean their views are the exclusive ones used by myself and the other Treasury officials in this matter.

The honourable member points out a statement made by an economist for the Bank of Montreal. I think he is aware that other banks have made varying projections and other institutions in Canada and the United States have also already come on record as indicating what they hope the future to be.

I simply draw to the member's attention that I hope to table in the next few weeks a more detailed projection of what we expect the economy to do and how it is to perform in the areas of jobs and investment and, of course, from our point of view, revenue, in the next 12 months. This will be tabled in the House and I hope the standing committee would use it as one of the vehicles upon which it would carry out its discussions and research, to offer advice to the House and the Treasurer as to how we might amend any views that are presently expressed to the House and how they might be reflected in the budget.

Mr. Brandt: Recognizing that we are entering at least some period of uncertainty, I think it is interesting to note that, as a result primarily of increases in sales tax revenue, the Treasurer did receive a windfall of some \$350 million, of which, based on the past performance of this government, he has spent virtually every single, solitary dime of that additional money.

1450

I would ask the Treasurer: In light of the fact that there are at least some voices out there that are saying, "Be cautious about the future" as a result of the possibility of an economic slowdown, why would the Treasurer not in fact take a look at that additional revenue of \$350 million and apply at least a portion of that, as my colleague the critic for the Treasurer has indicated, to the deficit in order to provide him with

some additional flexibility in the days and months ahead when he may well need it?

My question to the Treasurer is this: Why would he not use at least a portion of the \$350 million?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: The Education critic wants you to spend it.

Mr. Brandt: It is the way he spends it, not just the amount he spends.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: Come on, make up your mind. You say, "Don't spend." He says, "Spend."

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Brandt: The fact of the matter is that he is spending it on any increased government civil—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member is repeating his question.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: The honourable member says he does not approve of the way that money was spent. The extra was spent for community and social services at a rate of an additional \$103 million and for health services at a rate of an additional \$119 million; those are the two major ones. If the honourable member is indicating that he does not feel those worthy community services should be supported, then I disagree with him.

Mr. Brandt: The Treasurer will always be able to cite needs, certainly, and I do not disagree with many of the needs he has pointed out. Of course, he has inadvertently forgotten to mention that he has also, in the course of the last two years, hired an additional 5,000 civil servants, which has cost this province an additional \$250 million a year, or no less than \$1 billion over a four-year period.

My question to the Treasurer is simply this: The deficit which he projected in his budget statement today of some \$970 million would of course have to take into effect some \$350 million of additional in-year cuts that he had proposed for the various ministries. Since we are about halfway through the year in terms of his budgeting process, could the Treasurer share with us now how much of that \$350 million he has been able to realize in terms of cuts, and is he in fact on target with those additional cuts that will be required to bring the total deficit below the magic \$1-billion mark?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: If I may comment on the editorial lead-in to the question, the interim leader—

Mr. Brandt: Sure you can. Answer it in your own way.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Well, he asked his question in his own way, so—

Interjections.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: The honourable member would be relieved to know that the salary bill for the civil servants is now substantially decreased as a percentage of the budget of the province, compared to what it was. He would also be glad to know that of the new employees who are hired in areas of substantial significance and importance in delivering provincial programs, most of them are working not in Toronto but out in the province, including the move to northern Ontario, where so many of our very important operations are going to be concentrated now and in the future.

In connection to the honourable member's question which dealt with in-year cuts, I can report to the honourable member that we are on target, the program is moving forward and the report of where those cuts come is premature at this time, although it is well in hand. When the fiscal year is completed, I will be able to detail to the honourable member where this comes from. Some of it will come from capital, some will come from our ordinary expenses, and I am sure the honourable member would be delighted to support the concept, since it really came into this Legislature from the mind and at the hand of Frank Miller of blessed memory.

DEFICIT REDUCTION

Mr. Harris: I also have a question for the Treasurer, who I would hope—maybe in his own way of answering—will start to relate to the facts as well as his own way. It has to do with the second-quarter report that was released yesterday, a report which heightened our concerns about his government's commitment to deficit reduction and any semblance of expenditure control. Could the Treasurer tell us what portion or percentage of the increased revenues his government has collected since coming to office has been applied to reducing the deficit?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: The cash requirement reduction plan that has been a part of our program of fiscal responsibility is well known to the members of the House, or certainly to the previous members of the House. I will be glad to try to describe it in detail to the present members. When we took office—we really do not want to talk about the days prior to office—the spending program on the day we took office in fact had a deficit projection of about \$2.6 billion. We have

progressively reduced that over the three budgets I have been involved with. Now it is below one billion.

I wish it had been substantially lower, but it is below \$1 billion so we have been able to apply the increased revenues in a way that strengthened our programs and made up for other kinds of deficits in this province having to do with inadequate funding on education, roads, environmental programs and a wide variety of important aspects.

Mr. Brandt: Members' salaries.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Members' salaries—the honourable member interjects—have gone up by a very minor 3.9 per cent per year.

Mr. Harris: All the political hacks' have gone up. They are the ones that have doubled, not the members'. We agree with that.

The question was what percentage and the answer, if the Treasurer would use the facts, is really quite simple; it is eight per cent. Eight per cent of the total revenue increases he has received since he has been in office is what he has applied to reducing the deficit. He has managed, successfully I might add, to spend the remaining 92 per cent of the increases he has received.

In the current fiscal year, as of this statement that we saw yesterday, he has applied less than two per cent of the total in-year revenue increases. This is the windfall over and above his budget. Two per cent of that he has applied to deficit reduction. In his three budgets, he has been able to reduce the deficit by less than one half of the more than \$2 billion in windfall; not the \$10 billion or so he has, just the \$2 billion in windfall. Less than one half of that has gone towards the deficit.

Mr. Speaker: The supplementary question is?

Mr. Harris: I wonder if the Treasurer is able to explain to the long-suffering taxpayer why, in the midst of this sustained period of economic growth, he has made such a minimal commitment to reducing the deficit, and when, if ever, does this Treasurer see the day when this province might have a balanced budget?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I would like to point out to the honourable member that our current budget is presently balanced or very close to it. From a business point of view, to actually balance our revenues with our day-to-day expenditures for the operation of the government is an aim that I set for myself and that has been accomplished within a very narrow range. I think we should remember that this year we are spending \$2.6 billion in capital. In order to accomplish that, we

are borrowing less than \$1 billion. I do not know many well-ordered businesses that are able to conduct their affairs in such an effective and fiscally responsible way.

Mr. Harris: If we take into account the differences in the way governments and businesses operate, every well-run business I know does it better than the Treasurer is doing it. I think the Treasurer knows the real reason he has not eliminated the deficit is that his cabinet colleagues have turned into spending junkies and it is the taxpayer who is paying for their \$96 million-a-day habit. The only time we hear him talk about fiscal responsibility is when he is hedging his commitments or signing accords.

The Treasurer and his colleagues have overspent his budget plan every year they have been in office. The Treasurer's three budgets have increased spending by an average annual rate of 10 per cent. He knows that his expenditures in relation to the size of the economy are at near-recessionary levels. Does the Treasurer not agree that the only hope he has of increasing the province's flexibility, let alone of delivering on these campaign promises, is to get his colleagues' and the Premier's (Mr. Peterson) spending under control? It has not worked for three years. Could he tell us what new controls he has that by some miracle are going to work now?

1500

Hon. R. F. Nixon: We think that our spending program is under control. We are not spending the money on programs that are not supported on all sides of this House. We are concerned about delivering medical services in a more effective way and keeping up to date. We are concerned about the quality of education and a variety of welfare programs. We want to have programs that are going to stimulate the development of the north so that some of the northern members can spend more time down here.

I do not apologize for that and I am not going to be talking about the inadequacies of the previous administration. It is not necessary. Everybody knows about them. I do not have to bring it to their attention.

NIAGARA REGIONAL POLICE

Mr. Swart: My question is to the Solicitor General. She will know that just this morning the chairman of the Niagara Regional Police Commission announced that the commission by a unanimous vote had called on the Solicitor General to hold a public inquiry into the allegations of impropriety against the Niagara Regional Police force.

Given that this call came from the reform commission initiated by her government specifically to straighten out the scandal that has existed for a long time in the Niagara Regional Police force, and given that the call to her was made after an investigation in depth by the commission on the 741-page report from its own internal investigation, why has the Solicitor General rejected that reasonable and responsible request and turned the whole issue back to the police chief and to the commission?

Hon. Mrs. Smith: As the member for Welland-Thorold knows, we do indeed have a capable chairman of the board of the police commission in that area. On taking office, she herself was concerned about the scandals reputed to be in that force, particularly around the police chief, and caused charges to be laid against the police chief under the Police Act. These were in the process of being investigated, I believe, by the Hamilton-Wentworth Regional Police force when the police chief himself resigned, stepping out of office. This caused the charges to die, as they were charges laid under the Police Act and he was no longer a policeman.

After discussion in the Solicitor General's office, this police commission and its chairman decided to pursue their own investigation internally into this matter. They have now completed the investigation and have just as of now submitted it for our review. We will be glad to review it and see what problems, if any, exist in this report and take whatever necessary action is called for.

Mr. Swart: I am surprised that the minister does not have more of a handle on her ministry. Does she not know that she signed a letter rejecting it and then referring it back to the police commission? I would have thought she would have jumped at the opportunity to clean and clear the situation that we have down there.

The minister must know that in recent years her ministry did two comprehensive investigations and refused to release the reports. Even the brief summaries whitewashed the police force there. Yet the cache of 500 illegal weapons was found by the new chief and the commission immediately after they started their own investigation. Does the minister not think this shows gross incompetence or negligence or even coverup by her investigators? Is that not the real reason she does not want a public inquiry? The trail of guilt might lead right up to her ministry.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The question has been asked.

Hon. Mrs. Smith: Indeed, I did receive a letter from the chairman, roughly two weeks ago, in which she said she was thinking of demanding a public inquiry and asking for my response.

Interjection.

Hon. Mrs. Smith: If the member would listen carefully, I responded to her that the letter she had written to me seemed to indicate that the commission was doing the investigation and that this was an inappropriate way for her to go about it. Along with the letter I received last night, saying that she would be demanding a public inquiry, was an attached letter in which she corrected those errors in her original letter. So, indeed, she herself has now submitted a second, more accurate request for a public inquiry, and we will take a look at it. But I would point out to the member that, generally speaking, when the police investigate something, they themselves look to what action should be taken and recommend on that. We will look for the recommendations of the chief of police in this matter.

RENTAL ACCOMMODATION

Mr. Cousens: I have a question for the Minister of Housing. As part of her campaign commitment to build 102,000 units of housing by 1989, the minister stated in this House on November 5 that 12,000 housing units will be developed over the next five years on government-owned land. Will the minister inform this House what consultation she has had with local municipalities and in what municipalities she intends to erect these units of housing?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I am glad to see the member for Markham here today. Yesterday, when we were supposed to be having a discussion that he himself called for on a question he had asked previously, he did not seem to have the time to be here to discuss this question. I hope the next time he is very interested in a question of housing and the provision of affordable housing, he will be here to listen to the answer.

Mr. Cousens: Will the Minister of Housing, in view of the almost unanimous decision by Scarborough council, tell us whether the Rouge Valley lands will be used for housing? The minister did not answer the other question. Can she answer this one?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: As a result of the decision of Scarborough council concerning those lands, this whole matter is now in the hands of the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Eakins), who will take a look at the impact of that decision on all of the

provincial interests in the area, which include the interests of the Ministry of Housing, the Ministry of Transportation, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food and several others. When that process is complete, the cabinet will decide what the appropriate response will be.

TRANSFER PAYMENTS

Mr. R. F. Johnston: My question is for the Treasurer. I would like to get more information about the transfer payments to colleges and universities and to the public education system, if I might.

It looks, in general, as if the Treasurer has reduced the amount to the public education system from about a 7.5 per cent transfer last year to 6.8 per cent this year. The minister has included the costs of the extension to the separate school system as a result of Bill 30 within that total amount of 6.8 per cent; last year, 1.5 per cent of that total amount went to separate school funding. Can the minister tell us how much of it is going in this year to separate school funding, how much is going in for the other things he promised during the election campaign and how much is really left for base assistance to the public education system? Is it in fact above the cost-of-living rise or is it less than that?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I think the honourable member is aware that these operating transfers, of course, do not include any capital transfers, which will be announced separately. The member is aware that those are very large as well and in many instances have to do with the Catholic schools and the public schools which have to have expanding facilities in many communities, and that the changes for public education, as he has pointed out, are: for colleges from 4.3 per cent to six per cent, for universities from 7.3 per cent to 6.7 per cent and for schools from six per cent to 6.8 per cent.

I would be the last to say that these transfers are sufficient in the light of the needs that any one of us as members of the Legislature can identify in our own community, and I cannot divide these, as the honourable member has asked, into the components that he has suggested. I will tell him, however, that as part of the statement I indicated that the members of cabinet directly associated will be making statements within the next two weeks—I think one of them, at least, is due tomorrow—indicating clearly what the application of the funds is.

1510

Mr. R. F. Johnston: It is disconcerting to know that the minister cannot separate out these

figures. I cannot understand for the life of me why he cannot today, and I am very disappointed to hear that.

Dealing specifically with problems of access and overcrowding at the university level, since this is a drop from 7.3 per cent last year and we already know that about 15 per cent of the students who applied for university entrance and were eligible students were turned down or did not receive any place in a university this year, next year, with the Ontario Schools, Intermediate and Senior Divisions curriculum guidelines coming in, there is going to be a huge jump of perhaps as high as 15 per cent in applications.

Can the minister explain to me, through these transfers, which are lower than last year's, how it is that accessibility and overcrowding are not going to be a major crisis next September?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Once again, I would like to leave the answer to the minister concerned, who has a statement coming up on the application of these figures, but I would tell the member that in the consideration of the transfers, the accessibility was considered.

WASTE DISPOSAL

Mr. McLean: I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. The average home owner in the towns of Penetanguishene and Midland will be paying an increase of about \$100 extra in garbage disposal next year. In the village of Port McNicoll it will rise from \$37,000 to \$91,000 in 1987, for an average increase of over \$100 per household.

When will the minister show some leadership and solve this garbage crisis that is facing communities in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: The garbage crisis to which the member makes reference, of course, is one which—and I know we do not like to do this; to go into history on this—but one which was left with me. That was the undertaking our government made to close the Puzé landfill site because of problems that were identified with the Puzé landfill site and the plume, which was moving in the direction of Georgian Bay, and it has been documented for some time.

I can recall when we were in opposition being vociferous in the criticism of the operation of that particular site. It was not a viable option—and I know there were people in the area, perhaps even the member himself—but one of the options that was presented to me was to keep that landfill open, in violation of a pledge we had made and in violation of some information that had been

provided to us that it would not be a good environmental option.

As a result, we did show leadership in assisting a number of municipalities in finding a temporary place where they could place their waste material until such time as they are through their environmental assessment, until such time as they have selected a site or a facility to deal with it.

My ministry has provided some funding, for instance for the transfer station, and has attempted to be of assistance in many ways to those municipalities in meeting their obligations. But there is no question, I would say to the member, that the cost—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. McLean: Due to the fact of the delay that will take place until the new site is probably found, and the increased costs to those local municipalities, would the minister indicate to the Legislature and those people that he would be prepared to look into the possibility of picking up part of the cost?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: I appreciate the member's concern; I think it is very legitimate. We are not in a position, however, as he knows, to begin to subsidize the transportation of wastes around Ontario, for instance. If we were to do so, it would discourage municipalities from finding solutions which are somewhat close to home.

We do have a number of programs that the member may or may not be aware of that may be of some assistance to those municipalities. There are some I announced in June 1987 which have some generous funding in them which may help a number of those municipalities meet their obligations. I would be happy to have my ministry officials review those programs with the municipalities to see if there is anything they could take advantage of so that they would not have as much of the burden borne at the local level.

SERVICES EN FRANÇAIS

Mr. Morin: I would like to direct a question to the minister responsible for francophone affairs.

Nous célébrons aujourd'hui le premier anniversaire de l'application de la Loi 8. Est-ce que le ministre pourrait nous donner un compte rendu de l'évolution de cette loi?

L'hon. M. Grandmaître: Je suis très fier d'annoncer, non seulement à mon collègue le député de Carleton-Est (M. Morin) mais à tous les députés qui ont participé à l'élaboration du projet de loi 8, qu'aujourd'hui on fête la première année de l'implantation de cette loi, et je suis très fier de leur apprendre que la majorité des plans de

mise en oeuvre, soit 98 pour cent des plans, ont été présentés devant la Commission des services en français de l'Ontario et l'Office des affaires francophones.

Alors, nous avons deux ans pour continuer à travailler pour l'implantation de cette loi et, avec les efforts des différentes communautés et des organismes francophones en Ontario, je suis sûr que la Loi 8 va connaître le grand succès qu'on lui souhaite.

Je veux profiter de cette occasion pour présenter le nouveau président de l'Association canadienne-française de l'Ontario, M. Jacques Marchand. Qu'on lui souhaite tout le bonheur.

ONTARIO FISHERIES ADVISORY COUNCIL

Mr. Hampton: My question is for the Minister of Natural Resources. The minister will recall that in late July of this year he announced that the newly created Ontario Fisheries Advisory Council would meet in early August and that its membership would be expanded to include a representative from northwestern Ontario communities west of Thunder Bay.

However following the election, on September 28—18 days after the provincial general election—in a letter to Rick Morgan, president of the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, the minister indicated that an additional person from west of Thunder Bay would not be added to the fisheries advisory council.

The people of the province who live in the large region west of Thunder Bay were clearly told one story immediately before the election and another very different story after the election.

Which is it? Which is the position of the minister? Does he stand by the statement that he made before the election? If he does stand by that, when will we see the appointment of a 12th member from one of the communities west of Thunder Bay?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: This of course is following the initiation of a fishing licence in Ontario to return the resource to what it was not that many years ago. We are definitely going to provide opportunities for all the people who visit northern Ontario, as well as the residents, to renew the kinds of opportunities that existed before.

There were those who questioned this initiative. I think I have convinced them that I propose to do this in a very meaningful way and that I would set up a group of people across the province who would tell this government and

share the responsibility of how the moneys are going to be spent.

I feel very proud now that this has happened. I was at my first meeting with this group in Thunder Bay last week with Dr. E. J. Crossman, a well-respected biologist, as chairman. He has had no one quarrel with his chairmanship. He was asked the first question by the minister as to whether this new board thought it would be appropriate that it should have more members and that one of them should come from the area the member has described.

I am pleased to share with the member the fact that the minister always had the feeling that someone should be put on that board, and it is going to happen.

1520

Mr. Hampton: So that the minister understands the position exactly, I want to read to him from the Dryden Observer. This is the Wednesday, July 29, edition of the Dryden Observer, and he said in it that the 12th member of the fishing advisory council would be appointed in time to take part in the early August meeting of the fishing advisory council. Following that, in the September 9 edition of the Dryden Observer—

Mr. Speaker: And the question is?

Mr. Hampton: —the Premier (Mr. Peterson) also stated the appointment would be made very soon. So my question is, the minister said it would happen in early August. The Premier repeated his words. The question is when. He said it was going to happen by early August. When is he going to appoint the 12th person from communities west of Thunder Bay, a promise he made back in July, which the Premier repeated early in September?

Mr. Speaker: The question has been asked.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: This is not a short-term involvement. This group is going to be in place as long as it takes me to rebuild the fishery, and it is going to take quite a while, because we are going to have to put in new hatcheries. We are going to have to clean up the habitat. We are working, of course, with the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley), because as often as he cleans up a stream in this province, I am going to stock it with fish.

So I want the member to understand that a few months standing in the way of a committee, that is going to be producing such good work in this province to renew the resource to what it was not that long ago, is something that I do not think anyone would quarrel with for the time frame we have described. I have already said that we are

going to add representation from that area to that group, when I decide.

OSHAWA AUTO AUCTION LTD.

Mr. Wiseman: I have a question of the Minister of Financial Institutions. I wonder whether the Treasurer—

Mr. Breagh: Hey, no smiling before he asks the question.

Mr. Wiseman: Yes, he is getting a lot of questions today.

I wonder whether the minister is familiar with the problem of the Oshawa Auto Auction, Lloyd's bank and the 200 car dealers who sold their cars on October 21 and October 28 with the understanding that the money from the cars sold would go into a trust fund and the dealers would be paid promptly. The car dealers who sold on the 21st sent their cheques in for payment, and payment was withheld until October 29, and then they came back marked "Not sufficient funds."

Mr. Speaker: The question is?

Mr. Wiseman: Everyone knows the car auctions are in trust—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Do you have a question?

Mr. Wiseman: Would the minister and his colleague the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Wrye) look into the matter as to why the bank took that money, held it and put it against other debts the person owning the Oshawa Auto Auction had incurred?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I have carefully perused my briefing book, and there is not a thing in there about the matter. I will certainly undertake to get the information for the honourable member and see that it is placed at his disposal without delay.

Mr. Wiseman: I appreciate that, but can the Treasurer tell us whether he and his colleague the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations have replied to the executive director of the used car association, who has been trying to get a meeting between himself and the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations all this week? It is important. One person from my riding is a small dealer who stands to lose \$32,000, but there are an awful lot of them out there. These are all small dealers, and I would appreciate it if the Treasurer could give me the commitment—

Mr. Speaker: The question has been asked.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Both my colleague the honourable minister and myself are usually readily accessible, and I will certainly see that the response goes to the member's constituent and I will keep the member informed.

ARGOSY FINANCIAL GROUP OF CANADA LTD.

Mr. Mackenzie: I have a question for the Minister of Financial Institutions. The committee dealing with the Ombudsman's report rejected the Ombudsman's recommendation to compensate the Argosy victims. The committee, however, did make a recommendation that there should be an ex gratia payment to the Argosy victims, and I am wondering if the minister can tell us if the government has made any decision on this matter.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: We are not proceeding with an ex gratia payment.

Mr. Mackenzie: During the election, the Premier (Mr. Peterson) stated on several occasions that the issue would be brought before the cabinet. The Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Mr. Kwinter) is said to have indicated his sympathy for this particular position. Has it been discussed in cabinet or has this minister just totally rejected it now and was that just an election comment?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I can assure the member that it has been discussed along the lines he has indicated in his question and the decision is as I have already indicated.

FACILITY FOR YOUNG OFFENDERS

Mr. Runciman: My question is for the Minister of Correctional Services. In response to a question yesterday, he mentioned his ministry was in the process of building young offenders facilities. Based on that comment, I wonder if he can inform us of the status of the secure young offenders facility that was announced for Brockville over two years ago?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: In answer to the honourable member, I can get back to him on that as I do not have the information right now.

Mr. Runciman: I have to take issue with the minister's lack of knowledge in this particular subject area. I wrote him shortly after he was appointed to the executive council and he is still not familiar with the issue. His predecessor, in my view, delayed it purely on political grounds simply because that seat was not held by a member of the governing party. I am asking the minister—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Runciman: During the election campaign, the member for Kingston and The Islands (Mr. Keyes), the former Minister of Correctional

Services, indicated that Brockville was the ideal site. He confirmed that is the site the facility should go in. I just wonder if the minister will today commit himself to following through on that commitment, that promise, that announcement made over two years ago.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: In answer to the honourable member, I will not commit myself to that today because I want to review all the new construction and the rehabilitation of existing facilities in regard to young offenders.

GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY

Mr. Miller: I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. The International Joint Commission on the Great Lakes is meeting in Toledo, Ohio, and today they are about to sign the Great Lakes water quality agreement, an update of the 1978 agreement. It calls for a scheduled cleanup of the lakes and strengthening the 1978 agreement. Is the minister aware of this and is he satisfied that the Ontario Great Lakes portion is going to be protected?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: This is a very important agreement. The member represents a constituency that is on Lake Erie so he would have a special interest in this. I want to say that this particular agreement is the culmination of some considerable negotiation. There was some fear that to tamper with the 1978 agreement, which in principle is a good agreement, might weaken it in view of the lack of resolve to deal with environmental issues in some part, but I can assure the member that the input of Ontario, and I must say the input of environmental groups, Great Lakes United and others, has been very beneficial in coming up with an agreement which I think is superior to the one we had last time.

Interestingly enough, it will be the federal Minister of the Environment who will be signing that and it will be the provincial Minister of the Environment who has to deliver the goods.

1530

PROPERTY TAXES

Mr. Reville: I have a question for the Minister of Revenue. Today's newspapers deliver us the latest entry in the Metro Toronto property tax lottery. It is a kind of mug's game in which local councillors count up winners and then they count up losers. I wonder if the House should expect this minister to behave as the previous minister did. He used to smile disarmingly at the House and suggest that it really had nothing to do with him at all, but that he had to respond to requests.

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: I think the former minister did a marvellous job. If I can follow in his footsteps, I will be very pleased. I want to assure the member that this government is interested in reassessment, as we have been for the last two and a half years. If Metro can make up its mind about what it is looking for, my ministry will gladly assist.

Mr. Reville: I think it is beneath this government to start blaming the victim for things. The totally marvellous job the previous minister did was to create a situation in which Metro council is contemplating a scheme by which thousands of people will lose their homes, thousands of people will lose their apartments and thousands of people will lose their businesses.

Will the minister finally undertake real property tax reform—I will give him some hints—a reform that would be based on the taxpayer's ability to pay, a reform that would be based on taking education off the property tax and a reform that would be based on reversing the trend of senior governments of dumping more and more fiscal responsibilities on the property tax so that assessment-poor municipalities struggle and struggle to deliver services to their ratepayers?

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: I think the present legislation is a very good piece of legislation. We will continue to use it for the simple reason that 76 per cent of all municipalities in this province have used the present legislation. I think we can do the very same thing. We can offer these services to individual municipalities in Metro or to Metro itself. Again, we do not know if the resolution or the assessment program presented yesterday by the committee will be accepted by Metro, and until it is accepted by Metro I cannot comment on it.

AIR QUALITY

Mrs. Marland: My question is of the Minister of the Environment. I know that for some time now the minister has been promising air pollution guidelines. I am also aware of the fact the minister is fully knowledgeable that at this time there is an environmental assessment hearing taking place into a proposed energy-from-waste plant to burn domestic and industrial garbage, a project by Petro-Sun in the southeast part of Brampton.

I would like to ask the minister, in view of the fact that this environmental assessment hearing is now taking place and in view of the absence of any air pollution guidelines, how can the minister measure the decision of the panel against any

benchmark that does not exist for air emissions from such a plant?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: I find it interesting because in some instances I hear from her party that it is very pro incineration, that this is the solution and why are we allowing any more landfills in Ontario. The next question I get seems to talk about being opposed to incineration and so on. It really points to—

Mr. Sterling: Tell us your views. It's you guys. You are the government. You are the minister. Don't throw that out; answer it.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: I am being interrupted by the member for Carleton. I will try again. I will try to answer.

Mr. Speaker: Something very new around here. Would the minister continue.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: It was a legitimate question and the member for Carleton was interrupting me. The fact is that the panel will take into consideration all evidence that is presented. In co-operation with the Ministry of the Environment of Ontario, there have been some federal pieces of work done on incineration. There has been some testing done. There has been a lot of work on evidence provided from around the world on the issue of incineration, and I know the panel will take that fully into consideration before rendering a decision one way or another.

Ultimately, of course, the Ministry of the Environment takes into consideration the viewpoint which the board expresses, and it is very rarely that we will see a government overturn the Environmental Assessment Board when it brings forward its decision to cabinet, because it is usually based on an introduction of evidence from a variety of groups. Members will know, of course, that this government provided intervenor funding so that the opponents could make their cases in the most appropriate fashion.

NOTICE OF DISSATISFACTION

Mr. Cousens: Mr. Speaker, under section 30 of the standing orders, I give formal written notice to yourself and the Clerk of dissatisfaction with the answer given by the Minister of Housing (Ms. Hošek) and I look forward to the opportunity of seeing her.

Interjections.

Mr. Cousens: On a point of personal privilege, Mr. Speaker: When I had scheduled the earlier dissatisfaction notice, I was able to come; but then when another function arose, out of the gentlemanly heart that I have, I gave her notice

and said, "Look, there will be another opportunity." It has come very quickly.

PETITION

COCHRANE TEMISKAMING RESOURCE CENTRE

Mr. Kozyra: On behalf of my colleague the member for Cochrane North (Mr. Fontaine), I would like to submit to the Legislature a petition signed by 143 people of or near the riding of Cochrane North. This petition states:

"We, the undersigned, firmly believe that the residents of the Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre, who are developmentally handicapped children and adults, should remain in that facility to meet all their needs."

Mr. Speaker: Petitions? Committee reports? Motions? Introduction of bills?

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

CANADA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE AND SCHOOL OF GRADUATE THEOLOGICAL STUDIES ACT

Mr. Allen: Mr. Speaker, just so you would not have a complete draw on all that list of requests, I am obliging you with the introduction of a bill.

Mr. Allen moved first reading of Bill Pr1, An Act respecting Canada Christian College and School of Graduate Theological Studies.

Motion agreed to.

TOURISM ADVISORY BOARD ACT

Mr. McLean moved first reading of Bill 24, entitled Tourism Advisory Board Act, 1987.

Motion agreed to.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE (continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Simcoe East, I believe, adjourned the debate last evening.

Mr. McLean: That is correct, Mr. Speaker, I did.

I am pleased today to rise and to take part in this debate on the speech from the throne. It was interesting yesterday afternoon when the member for Muskoka-Georgian Bay (Mr. Black) made his remarks. Some comments were made with regard to the educational aspects of the

speech from the throne, with regard to the additional portables and the additional costs that were going to be injected into the educational field. I do not think there are many people in this province who want to see more portables in schoolyards. I think they want to see bricks and mortar and better educational facilities for their children.

1540

It indicated that what the speech from the throne really does is to send out signals of what the government intends to do in a program it wants to establish and follow. I believe that is all it does: send out signals. There were many signals sent out in the previous throne speech which were never followed through on or even brought into this Legislature for debate. Unfortunately, the government's throne speech appears to be a carbon copy of its previous two speeches. This is not an agenda for action. This does not outline policies that are aimed at assisting the people of this province.

What did we get? Again, it appears to be a more-work project for Liberal back-benchers who will generate more committees, more reports, reviews and new studies. This is clearly not action on the part of the government. Rather, it shows that a sense of complacency and stagnation has already set in with a government that won a massive majority in the Legislature. That majority was won only two months ago and the people of this province have now seen how quickly arrogance and complacency have come to the forefront of this government.

The throne speech does not outline a clear and coherent strategy or lay the necessary foundation for a healthy future, the social or economic development of my riding of Simcoe East or the rest of the province. What this government has given the people of Ontario is only episode 3 in a series of throne speeches similar to the mini-series that were once popular on television. The popularity of network television mini-series has plummeted over the years and by presenting this throne speech, the Liberal government is facing the same fate from an audience that is or soon will be fed up with a government that hands down a hodgepodge of unrelated programs, a rerun of past announcements and a mountain of committees, studies and reviews.

There is nothing in this document that indicates where the government is taking Ontario over the next four years. Hardly any legislation has been introduced in the Legislature for this session. The conflict-of-interest bill has been introduced: that is one key. I do not know of too

many others that have been introduced other than the auto insurance bill, and those in a whole legislative program are coming on stream very slowly. To me, this throne speech indicates that the ship of government is rudderless and the people of Ontario who are on that ship will be cast adrift in a sea of studies.

As my party's critic for Tourism and Recreation, I am deeply concerned that this government appears to be satisfied with the gains Ontario's tourist industry has made over the past years. There is no mention of tourism or recreation in the throne speech. That is interesting, when we look at the substantial increase we had last year: There is no mention of tourism, or how they are going to further expand the tourism program.

Can we expect to see the gains of 30 per cent we saw last year? Tourism contributes a lot of money and employment in my riding of Simcoe East. It provides an important economic counter-balance when things are not going so well for local business and industry. Judging by this throne speech, we can only assume this government is turning its back on the tourism industry in Ontario which was once "yours to discover." It is now being wiped off the tourist map. Rather than severing ties with our tourist industry, this government should be announcing new initiatives, new aims to keep the industry healthy and vibrant. There is nothing of tourism in the throne speech, and that is a crying shame.

As my party's deputy critic for Agriculture and Food, I was disturbed by what this government has offered to the farmers of Ontario. What they got from this throne speech is a commitment to develop innovative approaches assisting Ontario farmers. That sounds great, but it means absolutely nothing. The programs announced by this government during the recent provincial election campaign were only a rehash of programs already announced in the last budget. The farmers of Ontario have a long, proud history and, it appears that history will soon come to an end unless this government does more than dangle promises of studies, reviews and consultations rather than acting now.

The Evans commission, which was this government's long-standing excuse for inaction in the health care field, has reported and recommended that an emphasis be placed on the prevention of illness and programs that operate outside of the hospital environment. What has this government done with the Evans commission report? Was there any mention of new programs in the throne speech? No. There was

only a passing mention of a proposed Premier's council on health strategy which may or may not encourage the development of programs.

There was also no mention of programs aimed at helping to enlarge existing hospitals or to build new ones in Ontario. The Orillia Soldiers' Memorial Hospital in my riding of Simcoe East is bursting at the seams. Prior to the recent election campaign, the government allocated \$30 million to enlarge the hospital, but that financial infusion came after the health ministry was informed that the existing site is too small for any form of expansion. This is one election promise goody that just will not wash.

I know that there are many other communities throughout Ontario that require new or expanded hospitals. I also know that there are only so many dollars to go around. The financial pot is not bottomless and that is why I called on the government earlier this year to set up a hospital lottery with proceeds to be used for hospital construction in this province. A great idea, and there was no mention of that in the throne speech. Our health care delivery system is in a state of deterioration and that process is speeding up rapidly.

I would like to say a few things about the environment because this government seems unwilling to do so. The throne speech fails to mention any new programs aimed at reducing acid rain or the emissions from factories and automobiles that cause acid rain. If there were newspaper, radio or television reports that indicate the problem of acid rain has been resolved, I failed to read, hear or see these headlines or stories that we have conquered acid rain and it is no longer a problem. It appears from this throne speech, in the lack of reference to acid rain, that acid rain is no longer with us. But I know better.

This government has shown an acute lack of leadership in a related environmental field. I am referring to the garbage crisis that is confronting the people of Simcoe East and throughout the rest of Ontario. We can no longer afford to use valuable land in this province as dumping grounds for garbage. There will always be garbage, but there will not always be enough land. Garbage is currently being transferred from six northern municipalities to a landfill site north of Toronto. This is an expensive process and places an unacceptable financial burden on the taxpayers of Penetanguishene, Midland, Port McNicoll, Victoria Harbour, Tay township and the township of Tiny.

The average home owner will be paying approximately \$100 more next year for the disposal of wastes. The average home owner can expect to see his taxes increased by over \$100 just to cover the cost of transportation to the Keele disposal site.

1550

This government seems to think the garbage crisis can be resolved by shipping trash around this province or by creating massive dumping grounds. This government seems to think the garbage crisis is a disposable problem that can be tossed away and forgotten about. There are no new policies or programs in this throne speech aimed at solving this extremely serious garbage problem that is confronting the municipalities of Ontario. This government has failed to show leadership.

It was only during the campaign that my Liberal opponent came to Toronto with some of his colleagues to make a sweetheart deal to have the garbage shipped to the city of Orillia. Can one imagine, with a disposal site on the shores of Lake Simcoe with environmental approval for approximately 15 years, these six municipalities with the leadership of the Liberal candidate wanting to bring all that garbage to the city of Orillia. The people of my riding made a wise choice on September 10, a very wise choice, because if it were not for the choice they made, they would be accepting garbage in the city of Orillia, something that is very unacceptable to me.

In the area of financial management, the throne speech had one brief mention about fiscal responsibility and then went on to completely ignore financial management. This government has not indicated that it is committed to reversing the erosion of expenditure constraints that has been experienced over the past two years. The government has failed to address the issue of tax reform at the provincial or federal levels or in relation to what may be required to maintain Ontario's competitive position in a free trade environment, if and when a free trade agreement is completed with the United States.

Where is this government's commitment to debt and deficit reduction? That commitment was also strangely absent from the throne speech. Major transfer payment recipients such as our health care and education systems found nothing in the throne speech to address their concerns that this government will use the recent stock market decline as an excuse to freeze their transfer payments.

During the recent provincial election campaign this government tossed out promises of major financial infusions into our health and education systems and then did a complete turnaround when the stock market crashed by warning officials in our education and health systems that their transfer payments could very well be frozen at last year's levels or even reduced. How can any advance planning take place for our education or health care systems if officials in these fields get little or no direction from the government?

The necessary advance planning will have to be put on hold. It was interesting today when the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) made his speech in the Legislature with regard to the financial situation and how he was going to proceed with the transfer payments. The question was asked as to what would happen if there were tough times in 1988. The Treasurer had indicated that due to the problems of October 19 there could be a freeze. There is no indication in his statement today that this will not happen. He still was very vague and left it open, "These are my proposals, but times could change."

Most of the education initiatives mentioned in this throne speech were first announced in last spring's throne speech and enlarged upon during the summer provincial election campaign. This government appears intent on reducing the school dropout rate by one third over a five-year period. Now the intent appears to be a reduction of illiteracy. This government's focus on education policy continues to shift haphazardly and is getting hazier with each passing day.

The throne speech mentions initiatives aimed at reducing class sizes. I would like this government to tell me where it will find the classrooms required for a class size reduction program. Just where are these classrooms that can be used in an education system that has acutely overcrowded schools?

In my own riding, the Simcoe County Board of Education has managed to jam approximately 600 secondary and 3,450 elementary school students in portable classrooms for this 1987-88 school year. That is a total of over 4,000 students in portable classrooms. Yesterday, the member for Muskoka-Georgian Bay (Mr. Black) indicated that there are going to be more portable classrooms. It is totally unacceptable.

There is a pressing need for at least two new elementary schools and the Simcoe County Roman Catholic Separate School Board has more than 780 secondary and at least 2,000 elementary students taking classes in portables this year.

That board requires one new secondary school and a whopping six new elementary schools. St. Ann's in Penetanguishene is one that is totally in portables. The program as laid out by this government with regard to portable classrooms is unacceptable.

There is no doubt about it. New schools are required immediately in Simcoe county and throughout the rest of the province to meet the growing elementary enrolment in our education system. This government failed to address the needs in the throne speech. I firmly believe our educational system must be reformed and properly funded. With this throne speech, the government has failed to make any serious investment in the future of our youth by continuing to seriously underfund Ontario's education system.

Education system funding has decreased by over six per cent in the last two years, down to approximately 43 per cent. The goal of this government, as indicated, is that it is to be increased to 60 per cent over five years. That was a promise that was made two years ago by this government. I cannot understand it. What did they do? It was decreased by approximately six per cent. They go to the public again and say: "Elect us. We will increase it to 60 per cent." How many times are the people going to be told? Obviously they did not hear it the first time, but I am sure they will the next time.

The throne speech offered only a vague statement of intent to continue to create directly and to preserve low and moderately priced housing, which indicated to me that this government plans to continue its existing programs that resulted in a steadily worsening housing situation. The throne speech mentions the government's election campaign pledge to provide tax breaks to some first-time home buyers, but another election promise to provide 5,000 new residence spaces to alleviate the student housing crisis is not mentioned at all. Are these students supposed to live in all the excess classrooms this government seems to think exist in our education system?

The question that has been asked in this Legislature lately with regard to the millions of dollars that were not spent last year on housing is interesting. It is interesting that a large complex in my riding in the city of Orillia, the Royal Canadian Legion complex, wanted expansion. They wanted to create housing in the city for residents in need. They were turned down. Why, with some \$52 million unspent, were these applications not carried through? Why are these people not being looked after?

1600

The Ontario Human Rights Commission changes ministries faster than a Canadian Football League team changes its players' roster. First it was part of the Ministry of Labour. Then it was shifted to the Ministry of the Attorney General. Now it is going to the new Ministry of Citizenship and race relations. This continuous game of musical chairs with the human rights commission only creates uncertainty, a lack of direction and a great deal of confusion. Rather than creating chaos, this government should be doing more to ensure that the human rights commission can do its job thoroughly, effectively and efficiently.

During the summer election, Mr. Speaker, one you had an easy time in because your riding is very safe as far as being re-elected is concerned—while I am mentioning you, I would like to take this time to congratulate you on being elected to your very honourable position as Deputy Speaker. I have had the opportunity of working with you in the last few years in this Legislature. I have enjoyed it immensely and found you to be very fair and obliging and I know you will continue to do that in the chair you occupy there.

As I was saying, during the summer election campaign, this government announced it was committing \$14 million each year to upgrade and modernize apprenticeships as well as attracting those who would normally not consider or pursue an apprenticeship program.

To me, this \$14-million commitment seems somewhat premature when the federal and Ontario governments have not even completed the joint review of the apprenticeship program. In fact, the review is only now getting under way. That review was delayed in the first place due to a lack of initiative and action by this government. The review was to be completed and a new plan released by January 1, 1987. However, the provincial government did not even commission the study needed for this review until two months ago. As I said, under these circumstances, the \$14-million commitment is premature.

The throne speech also failed to address retraining for older workers in Ontario. I am referring to older workers, those in the 50 to 65 age group who are laid off due to factory closings or advances in technology that they are not able to keep pace with. These older workers want to continue their contributions to their employers. They want to continue making a decent living rather than depending solely on welfare or unemployment insurance. These older workers have given too much of their skills, initiative and

experience just to be cast aside by a government that does not care. They were ignored in the throne speech. Our older workers should be retrained and not ignored.

The throne speech contains repeated references to this government's opposition to the draft free trade agreement between Canada and the United States. This government has made the commitment to refer the deal to the House standing committee on finance and economic affairs. This happens at a time when the Premier (Mr. Peterson) is scurrying around the province and making comments with regard to free trade.

In January the Premier said the provinces would have a veto over any free trade negotiated by the two neighbouring nations. In February he said Ontario has a *de facto* veto over the implementation of the pact at the appropriate time. He repeatedly said in this Legislature and to reporters and to the voters during the recent election campaign that there would be no deal if his six conditions were not met. Times change and so has the Premier's stance on free trade. Earlier this month, he said that under this country's Constitution the federal government, not the provinces, has the power to conclude treaties with foreign governments. I have to wonder when the Premier had this great revelation from on high. When exactly did he realize that the federal government has the right to negotiate foreign treaties?

Rather than continue to voice his opposition to the free trade agreement, especially when the final document has not even been completed yet, the Premier should have used the throne speech to announce programs aimed at assisting Ontario's industries during a transition period, aimed at assisting Ontario's industries if this agreement is approved.

As well, the Premier could have used the throne speech to indicate what his government plans to do to assist Ontario's exporters in maintaining their access to markets in the United States in the event a free trade agreement is not approved by both countries.

This government failed to take this opportunity to ensure or secure future economic growth for this province, whether or not Canada joins with the United States in a free trade agreement.

These are only a few of the opportunities this government missed in its vague throne speech. These are only a few, but there are more, many more that I am sure my colleagues will be discussing as this debate continues.

I am certain my colleagues will note the throne speech's failings in the areas of transportation,

conflict of interest, the Premier's Council and energy in northern Ontario, to name but a few, and how the Premier is trying to slough off his responsibility in this conflict-of-interest act so that he will not have to answer to the people. He will appoint a commissioner, let him do the work for him and say, "This is his duty, not mine." What is he ashamed of? His conflict-of-interest act, I am sure, needs some very serious amendments that will improve it drastically.

I am truly sorry this government used this throne speech to point out the problems facing Ontario without offering any concrete solutions. I am sorry this government believes that a growing number of studies, reviews, committees and commissions is an acceptable replacement for commitment and action. There is no coherent strategy for Ontario's social and economic future in this speech. There is really no agenda, no vision. There is only a lengthy list of studies, reports, reviews and new committees aimed at keeping the Liberal back-benchers busy and out of trouble. Well, you do not get in trouble when you come to this great place.

Mr. J. M. Johnson: It is a tough job.

Mr. McLean: It is tough, but I tell members that somebody has to do it. It will be interesting to watch the committees work as the committees proceed to deal with some of these great things.

Also, there was very little mention in the throne speech with regard to energy. It is going to be interesting to know whether units five, six, seven and eight at Darlington are going to be proceeded with. Nobody has answered that question. What is happening with regard to that?

The question was asked in the Legislature the other day. No answer. I believe the other day the question was asked with regard to Oak Ridge: When is that new facility going to be built? I do not recall hearing an answer. I do not recall hearing any answer to the 88 recommendations in the Hucker report for that facility on what is to be done. The minister did not have the answer. I can tell members that there needs to be a new facility built there. This Hucker report has been done for over a year now and very few of the recommendations contained within that report, to my knowledge, have been followed.

The Ministry of the Environment: inaction in its waste disposal guidelines and inaction in its recycling and reusing programs. Where is the initiative? It is not saying to the municipalities, "We have this program. Come and use it. We want to see recycling take place more strongly than ever before." I have never seen any memos sent around saying that these are the programs we

want; very few. There are many municipalities represented in this House right at the present time that have the same problems we have in Simcoe North with regard to their disposal situation.

I am pleased to have had the opportunity to take part in this throne speech debate where the government has indicated some of the avenues it would like to see initiated. Very few are clearly identified; very broad in concept. Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to say a few words.

1610

Mr. Kozyra: It is an honour and a pleasure to rise in the House to deliver my first address: an honour to represent the riding of Port Arthur and a special pleasure because my two daughters are in the audience for this occasion.

I am certain the responsibility of office weighs heavily on each of us. In my case, following in the footsteps of Jim Foulds, who for 16 years served the Port Arthur constituents with much dedication and distinction, will be no easy task. However, I commit myself to that challenge.

The city of Thunder Bay, half of which is in the Port Arthur riding, is often referred to as the gateway to the west. Historically the great rendezvous place for the fur traders, it now serves with its many grain elevators as the storage, cleaning and shipping port for 40 per cent of Canada's grain. Forest products: The pulp and paper industry is the second main employer for the region, providing thousands of jobs.

Dominating the harbour is the famous Sleeping Giant, a huge peninsular rock formation in the form of a reclining Indian brave. The spirit of Nanabozho guards the bay and the Silver Islet mine, once the richest silver mine in North America. The Sleeping Giant peninsula is part of Sibley Provincial Park, one of Ontario's as yet lesser known but most beautiful natural settings.

Thunder Bay, a thriving modern city of 115,000, serves as the regional centre for a quarter of a million northerners. In 1981, Thunder Bay successfully hosted the Canada Summer Games, a two-week athletic and cultural extravaganza for 3,000 of Canada's young athletes and 1,000 of Canada's brightest artistic performers. The new and beautiful community auditorium regularly draws top-notch international entertainers, while Old Fort William, a truly magnificent historical recreation, is a major reason for the nearly half a million tourists who visit Thunder Bay.

The people of Thunder Bay, like all northerners, are both tough and vulnerable. While being proud of our ability to survive adversity, we are ever conscious of our isolation and susceptibility

to the vagaries of the economy. For these reasons, we listened carefully to the most recent speech from the throne and found reassurance in the Liberal government's commitment to completing the job and maintaining its strong interest in the north. As a classroom teacher for more than 20 years, I was extremely pleased with the government's bold initiative in education that places emphasis on the early years where it will do the most good. The ravages of illiteracy are all too evident in the north.

The recommitment to more affordable quality housing will go a long way to meeting the needs of the many still seeking the security and dignity of a place they can call their own. Being heavily related to resource-based industries, we welcomed the government's initiatives towards international competitiveness. We welcomed the proposed review of the Power Corporation Act. I hope consideration will be given to reducing Ontario Hydro rates for new northern industries. This reduction would make competition with Manitoba and Hydro-Québec more equitable and would translate into thousands of new jobs for the north.

The emphasis on independent healthy living correctly addresses the monumental health challenge for a preventive approach. However, this futuristic look cannot avoid the realities of increasing chronic illnesses, bed shortages and rising costs of medical technology. Thunder Bay feels that a modern, central medical facility with an adjoining medical school should not be out of the question. The economic, medical and social benefits of this regional Rochester of the north are obvious.

The recently announced centre of entrepreneurship program and the subsequent awarding of one centre to Thunder Bay confirms the belief in the vital role the north can and will play in Ontario's economic future.

A few days from now, Thunder Bay will host the second Premier's conference on northern business, entrepreneurship and competitiveness. It will be the culmination of a year of conferences and seminars throughout the north that provided a distillation of creative, enterprising approaches to northern development.

A few weeks ago in Sudbury, I had the pleasure of sitting in on a conference specifically aimed at young entrepreneurs, 60 men and women under the age of 30. The vitality and originality of their northern vision was truly inspiring. People such as these are the key in reversing the youth and brain drain to the south

and making the north an exciting, rewarding place in which to live.

Funds, such as the northern development fund and the heritage fund, serve as catalysts for economic growth and insurance for economic stability. They must continue to grow.

Increased funding for northern Ontario highways was also welcomed. No one in the north is so naïve as to think our highway requirements can be met overnight. Although the present government has committed more than \$100 million to highway construction and improvements in 1988, much more remains to be done. Many northerners feel that a four-lane Trans-Canada Highway should not be just a dream. Just as the coast-to-coast railway united Canada in the last century, so too this four-lane concrete ribbon would tie northern and southern Ontario.

The economic benefits from better and increased trucking access and tourist travel would be enormous. Safety concerns would be reduced, but the symbolic aspects of having the northerners say, "We rate; we have arrived" is perhaps the most important of all.

Soon, Thunder Bay will boast a brand-new government building on its beautiful marine waterfront. As part of this government's decentralized policy, it will mean over 200 jobs for the region. The buy-north program focuses government attention on northern goods and services.

The opposition has characteristically labelled the speech from the throne as "complacent, arrogant and inactive." It is clear to anyone caring to give it an honest look and appraisal that it is anything but. Perhaps a quote from Thunder Bay's local newspaper sums it up best: "That the Ontario Liberals want to work on doing what they said they would is a measure of good government, not staleness or timidity."

Madam Speaker, I am proud to be part of such a government, and thank you for the opportunity to express my views.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: It is hard to comment on such a short speech. In view of the tradition here, no doubt we will find that his next speech will jump exponentially, and the one following that. My first speech in this House took about 45 seconds. I had worked on it for two weeks.

Mr. Sterling: It was your best speech.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: It was my best speech, definitely my most effective. It was on the whole question of pay equity at that time. It was a private member's bill by Mr. Bounsall from Windsor. I was third member up speaking for my party in private members' hour and did not realize that the third member often did not get a

chance to speak. When I rose, after two weeks of research on my paper, the Speaker—and he was a New Democrat—said, “You have one minute left.” I said, “But, Mr. Speaker, I have been working on this for two weeks” and he said, “You have 45 seconds.” I summarized it in such a brilliant way that we won the vote and it actually went out to committee.

This will be a much longer and much less effective speech, which will have no impact at all on the 95 members of the Liberal majority, I am sure, or any of the ministers and, therefore, will just fill the time.

Mr. Miller: Just be careful.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I am always happy to see the member for Norfolk—has it changed? Is it still Norfolk? I have not kept up with all the changes. There are too many of them in this House at this point. It is good to see some of those who have heard my speeches before still here, as well as those who have not had to put up with them before. I appreciate their attendance.

Again, although I have already welcomed you to the chair before this, as it is the tradition within speeches on the speech to the throne, I would like to welcome you again, Madam Speaker, and encourage you to be lenient with me if I get too obstreperous today.

1620

I want to touch on a number of issues, and do it in as short a time as I possibly can; but as members can see, my introduction is taking me some time just to get my throat cleared.

Throne speeches are always boring. I guess that is one of the rules, so this is an excellent speech. This is perhaps one of the most boring throne speeches I have sat through in my eight years here. It meets all the requirements. It was definitely written by a committee—you can tell the different styles that are in it—and luckily, it is not contradictory. That is the main thing you have to be concerned about in a throne speech.

But it is also a little disappointing at this stage, especially after the two years we have had here with the accord and the excitement of change that took place after 42 years of Tory rule. One would have expected that in the aftermath of an election in which the Liberal Party was to gain the recognition for the mood of reform that was here and come back with such a large majority, we would see a blueprint of what we could expect of a reform government over the next four years. One would have expected that this would set the tone for some imagination—the word does come up several times—and vision, but I do wonder what kind of myopia we are talking about here.

Mr. Haggerty: In the fullness of time.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: In the fullness of time, member for Niagara South (Mr. Haggerty), it is true, we will probably get to see that, but definitely we did not get to see it here.

Mr. Mackenzie: He borrowed a Tory slogan.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Yes, it is an old Tory slogan. I must comment that the member for Hamilton East (Mr. Mackenzie) is correct. We talked about doing things by stages and in the fullness of time. All those old Tory adages seem to be coming back.

It is wonderful to watch the way the Premier's actual physical deportment is changing, and he is looking more and more like William Grenville Davis, the past Premier of this province. I do not know if all members have noticed it, but there was that wonderful picture in the *Globe and Mail* where they had the two profiles, and it was really hard to tell the Brothers Karamazov apart; they really did look quite alike. The past Premier's style—in terms of evasion of issues and the long, winding sentences which go nowhere and leave us all gasping, stunned and wondering what we should ask next—have now become the style of this Premier.

It is wonderful to watch the way the whole concept of regeneration or—what is it when you come back?

Some hon. members: Reincarnation.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: —reincarnation can show itself while the Premier past has just gone off to deal with the dome or whatever he deals with. But even being that far away, he can become reincarnated here in the House, and it is very surprising to see.

I want to talk first about free trade, because surely at this time in our history one would have presumed that that would be the first thing dealt with in this speech; that after the kind of campaign we all went through, this would be the first matter dealt with in this speech; that it would be dealt with forthrightly; that we would have some real idea about what the government was going to do to bring about its statements of the past in terms of free trade, and yet that is not what we have seen.

I would love to read into the record—but I do not have it with me here; perhaps some of the Liberals who know it by heart could do it for me—that wonderful ad that the Premier did on the radio during the campaign, “There can be no deal if...” What he was basically saying was: “I will stop this deal if it does not meet these conditions. There can be no deal. That is my bottom line.”

All we are seeing now from the Premier, as in response to a question yesterday, is: "We will have a debate. We will talk about this in every corner of this province, and maybe in Prince Edward Island. But we certainly are not going to say that there will not be a deal, I mean, because hey, these things are all federal, you know what I mean?" They were not six months ago, they were not during the summer election, when he made the people think he needed a mandate to be able to tell Brian Mulroney that if these six things were not done, there could be no deal, that would be the bottom line and Ontario and David Peterson would put an end to that.

Mr. South: It worked.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: It certainly has worked. They signed the document a few weeks later and included all the things the Premier thought should not be in it. Now he says: "Well, we should talk about that, but not too loudly. We have to be careful where, because we do not want to alienate people in western Canada or in other parts of the country. And we are still opposed. I mean, I want you to know we are still opposed, because we are going to bring out papers every few days that will show you why people should be opposed. There are some strange statistics in them as the Conservative Party has been wont to point out because it is in favour of free trade. That is about all I can do right at the moment, and until we see the actual text we won't know what we are going to do."

Even though I have been saying this somewhat facetiously, I am profoundly disappointed by the action of this government and the lack of action by the Premier at this point. There are some areas where it is really questionable what we can do in terms of legislation about a federal action; that is true. But in terms of mounting a battle against it and taking all the steps we can to stop it, there is little indication at the moment that this government is willing to act.

There is no reason at all, for instance, that we cannot be in Washington, that we cannot have a presence in Washington at the time when the Congress is trying to come to grips with this issue and that we do not have lobbyists there who are saying every day that the government of Ontario does not want this to go through. Do not forget what the American negotiator said; that is, if the provinces are not all in agreement, then it will not happen. We are here to say it should not happen and we do not want it.

We have not heard any statement from the minister responsible, the Premier, that we will have that kind of presence, that he intends to go

to Washington, that he intends to have people there on a daily basis during that debate in Congress to tell them we are opposed and we expect them to turn it down because we are opposed.

We have not heard the Premier say that he will take action under provincial law to protect the wine industry, as he once indicated he might do on a handshake; that good old, "You can trust me, I am Dave Peterson, I flip hamburgers," kind of approach that he had in that last election. That is gone. The notion now is, "Well, if GATT even is against any protection for our wine industry, no, I cannot do anything there." He is not talking of what we might do in terms of bringing in proactive legislation in this province to challenge the concepts of free trade.

I really do start to wonder what the economic philosophy of this government is. If they really believe free trade is the greatest threat to our sovereignty as a nation and to the concepts of how our economy should work and has worked traditionally, as I believe it is, then I do not understand why they are not talking about the things we should be doing to preserve the kind of Canada and Ontario we think we need here, and saying we are going to take that action whether the federal government likes it or not and that by taking that kind of action we will be able to scuttle this deal.

I want to go into this a little bit, but I want to warn the members of the Liberal Party who may think they can deal with this in a pussyfooting kind of way, because they want to make sure that John Turner is well placed federally and they do not want to upset things for John out west or in Quebec and may think they can even take the chance of this thing going through with the hope that Big John will come through after the election and send it all back and destroy the whole deal.

If it is in the heads of Liberals at this moment that they can play this kind of game on the vague possibility that Mr. Turner might be the next Prime Minister and might actually revert the deal, I suggest to them that they had better think twice because once this goes into effect and the major multinational corporations based in the United States take advantage of every aspect of free trade that is there in the next year and a bit before an election takes place, it is going to be damned hard for any government, let alone a Liberal government, to change that trade deal.

If they think they are going to be able to change that trade deal after the fact without major punishment from the United States of America, they have got another think coming. That Liberal

government, if it ever took place federally, would have to deal with that issue. Is it willing to risk major retaliation, major economic consequences after the deal is signed and delivered and has been in place for a year? I suggest that Mr. Turner, if he ever got into that position, would be put in an almost impossible predicament.

In fact, it would take a government like ours would be to take that on, to attract all that negative attention that would come to it and which would be very dangerous to a federal New Democratic Party government, if that dream should ever take place, to make that happen. Even we would have enormous problems with it. The consequences for the country in terms of the retaliation from the United States and the feeling of bad faith that would seep into our trade relationships afterwards would be devastating.

1630

The argument I want to make to the House is that it must be stopped now, and it cannot be stopped by pussyfooting around about the issue. We must be really clear, in opposition to this, that we believe we can stop it and that we will take the necessary action to stop it, not that we are just going to have a debate about it.

I am coming back, surely, to our concept of our economy. Just listening to some of the things the Premier used to say about free trade, I presume he believes, as I do, that this is a threat to our sovereignty and that, as a nation, we have the right to decide what aspects of our economy are necessary to being self-sufficient. How much of our agricultural development and industry needs to be something which is done here in this province and not imported, in order to actually feel that we are not just totally at the whim of the international trading market but in fact have the capacity to look after our own country?

We have to look at that in terms of the industries of this province. It is especially important to Ontario, which has been, since Macdonald made the National Policy, a crucial element in the east-west linkage of trade in Canada, which makes us possible as a practically impossible geographical nation. If it were not for the National Policy that Macdonald developed, even though it has had negative side-effects because of lack of government action following in terms of development of other areas of the country, we would not have the economic structure that could hold together this kind of country, because we are stretched too thin along too long a border.

If one destroys that concept of what the industrial base of Ontario has to be to the country

by allowing free trade to come in and decimate our capacity to have any industrial planning in this province, I suggest that the country is not going to be long alive, because the economic structures which will develop will bear no relationship to the kind of country and geographical integrity that we need to maintain a country. I think it is just that basic.

We have to look then at the kinds of industries we want some control over. We want to make sure that we will always have a major automobile industry. We will always want to make sure we have control of our own steel industry, and surely most important, we will want to have control of our natural resources.

Liberals have often been divided on that latter issue. One thought that with the national energy plan of a number of years ago, they finally came to grips with it and decided that, yes, too many of our natural resources were in foreign control and that it was time we took control of our own oil development. That is now going to be thrown down the toilet. That protection will be gone totally. Our capacity as a country to control our energy needs in terms of economic development and our social integrity will be gone.

I cannot think of any more profound reason that people should oppose free trade, not just in a rhetorical sense, but as a means of stopping it with every ounce of strength we have. For the Premier to be sending out signals that he is no longer quite as strong on this as he was before, that it is no longer "There can be no deal" but "We will defeat this issue," is a very dangerous thing to be happening at this point.

I remind members that when the battle on free trade takes place, the money that is going to be involved on the other side is going to be enormous. When that propaganda battle really heats up in the next few months, the money on the other side is going to be overwhelming. If we get mixed messages from this government in terms of how tough it is going to be—the major ally upon which the alliance of groups against this free trade initiative is relying; that is, the province of Ontario and the mandate the government got in the last election—the crux of their campaign will be taken away from them. I say we cannot tolerate much longer the kinds of lines we have been receiving from the Premier on that, which were started in the throne speech and which we have had from time to time in the last number of days.

The other thing I would suggest, which is an issue Ontario has to think about in terms of free trade—again, in terms of the kind of economy we

want—is, do we really wish to attach ourselves to the total-free-enterprise ethic of the United States at a time when it is in major decline, or do we want to be true to our own traditions of a mixed economy with a strong government presence and look much more broadly in terms of what kind of trade diversification is going to be crucial to this country maintaining itself in the future?

I would suggest that Canada's traditions lie somewhere, in economic terms, between the total-free-enterprise notions of the United States and the major state involvement of, say, Japan with the entrepreneurial group in its society. We lie somewhere in between in terms of our planning concepts and our social intervention ideas. We are not at one extreme or the other.

The danger with free trade along those lines, in my view, is that we are tying ourselves to this enormous market south of us, with no controls in terms of our own social planning and economic planning, and so the major barons of American industry will start to develop a free hand in the development of Canadian industrial policy.

I suggest that is not where we want to go, and we will not be enough to save America from the economic destruction it is going to go through if it does not change from its total sort of hatred of the concept of planning, that word which is basically anathema to Ronald Reagan and those kinds of people. I presume there are not many on the Liberal side of the House who are Reaganites, who are monetarists, and they see that kind of concept imposed upon this country by Mr. Mulroney as foreign to this province and country and as potentially extremely dangerous for us.

I think we all understand that is not the view of this country that we have had. We can hear it a bit with the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) today responding in terms of how he views a deficit. That is not what I would call traditional Milton Friedman that we heard today. That was a sense that a deficit at times is a useful instrument, as well as potentially a negative instrument in the economy.

If we tie ourselves totally to a monetarist society based on the total liberty of free enterprise, with their capacity to buy us out totally in the next little while and to do—I love our entrepreneurs. Of course, now they need a college for entrepreneurs here—I guess we would call it the Conrad Black Memorial Institute or something; now we need to train our entrepreneurs on how to be entrepreneurs, that is how sure we are about their capacity. But our entrepreneurs are all saying, “Oh, we can

compete with those guys down there.” Like heck they can; it is just a matter of scale.

We do not have the billions that they have to buy them out. We are a tenth the size they are, and if we totally tie ourselves to that economy, I suggest it will not be long before we are gone. So why is it that it is now, “We will debate”? Why is it not, “There can be no deal”? What has happened to the rhetoric? The election was a great time to get extra seats so we can have this invasion of the opposition's side of the House, but if they are not going to use it to be tough after the election, there is really no point in it at all.

Interjection.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I do not know which back-bencher that was, but he says, “The unemployment may even drop a little further with free trade.” Is that the price for which he would sell his country? I believe that is how fundamental this question is, and I do not think we can take the kind of posturing that we have had lately that, somehow, “We will wait until we see the full text before we know how we are going to fight this thing.”

I think we should be getting ideas every day from the government about what steps we will take and why it is totally unacceptable and who will speak for Canada if it is not going to be us.

I will leave that issue, if I might, for a while and deal with one or two other matters.

This is something which members of this House who have been here before have heard me talk about a great deal; the others should get a bit of a swat at this time as well before the member for Hamilton West (Mr. Allen) totally takes all my responsibilities in terms of poverty issues.

1640

We had a \$1-billion windfall last year. We heard today and yesterday that we have another \$500 million more than we expected this year. We have people on the streets of this province who do not have a place to live; we have people lining up for food at Stop 103 and other places like it around the province, people who are working and people who are on our social assistance plans which supposedly keep people out of poverty; and we have a government which gave basically a five per cent increase to the poor this fall and whose mentions in the throne speech of what it is going to do about poverty were essentially limited to saying, “We're waiting for Judge Thomson's committee to report and then we'll take action.”

The affront that is to my social conscience and, I presume, to the social consciences of most Liberal members who have been social activists

in their backgrounds before they came into this place, is enormous. We can talk about transfer payments. I will come to that in a minute or two, since the Minister of Colleges and Universities (Mrs. McLeod) is here. We do not normally get ministers in the House very often these days, so I think I owe it to her to talk about that.

When, with the wealth that we have, people in our province are not even able to have the basic things we take for granted, a meal on the table and a roof over our heads, and a Liberal reform government makes no mention of what its plan is for those people in its throne speech and then a few days later says, "We'll give them a five per cent increase, because that is about the cost of living, or a little bit above. Isn't that nice of us? And we've given them 22 per cent over the last few years, if you include the last Tory increase just before we came in"—no, they did not say that—"we have given them that kind of money," I say that is intolerable.

Then, just two days ago, the Treasurer gives out information that he has \$500 million more than he expected to have. I cannot believe that Liberal members do not understand the lack of coherence between what I would have thought was a Liberal reform philosophy and ethic, and economic action or inaction by their government. Maybe some Liberal members think they are going to get into cabinet some day by being quiet or being nice to ministers and that kind of thing; there are some here, not to name names, who know that is not the way to get in. Sometimes being on the opposite side does not get one in either, but that is another matter.

I would suggest to members opposite with their huge majority that if they want to have a meaningful role as back-benchers in this parliament over the next four years, then they really should think seriously about what they want to accomplish while they are here. They may just look at that one issue, which I presume is as fundamental to reform liberalism as it is to social democracy, and get their government to come to grips with the fact that we cannot leave behind a major portion of our society while the rest of us do well.

It should be intolerable to have condominiums going up in this city that are being sold for over \$1 million and to have \$52 million of money that was designed to go to subsidized housing not being spent. Surely if there is something that triggers their action as back-benchers, in terms of not just throwing up the lobs in question period for the ministers to knock out of the park but of actually having an impact on this place, those are

the kinds of things they should be raising as much as we are in opposition over here.

I would deal as well with other groups that are left out, but I promised that I would be relatively short in my speech today. The matters affecting the disabled are dealt with so cursorily in this throne speech, and the way we have shut those people out from meaningful participation in our society is something which, again, all members of this House should focus themselves on. The members should wonder whether, as Liberals, they really believe they should have a minister responsible for disabled persons who has no line budget, no programs to deliver at all, really, but is totally dependent upon the goodwill of the ministers of Health, Community and Social Services, etc., to implement the kinds of things he or she thinks are important.

The members should ask themselves whether it is all right to talk about transportation policy in a way which just sees the extension of parallel systems and does not understand that the basic affront to disabled people is that we exclude them from our public transit systems. There was at least one member, the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere (Mr. Faubert), who was at the opening of the light rail transit line out to Scarborough and knows that Beryl Potter and others were picketing there that day because even that most recent high-technology phenomenon was not made accessible for those people. We are moving at it a bit at a time but we are not taking the issue at hand. I suggest to the back-benchers that they may want to look at that kind of matter.

I now have new responsibilities in which I am sort of a new member myself these days. As some members can tell you, I can talk for an hour and a half, without notes, on income maintenance. I cannot do that on education or on colleges and universities at this stage. Give me a week.

I want to talk a little bit about education in Ontario. I worry that the kind of approach the government is taking around education at the senior level is one of developing these envelopes of money which it then sends off to the universities, centres of excellence, centres to develop entrepreneurs or whatever they are going to do with those people, and forget the base funding problems those institutions have had.

What I was trying to raise with my questions today to the Treasurer, which he neatly ducked, as he is so good at doing, was that if you look at the increases in transfers to the colleges and universities that were made today compared with last year, they are down. If you look at them

without these specialized envelopes in which the government is trying to set the agenda of universities rather than looking at some of the basic problems the universities have, you get figures that now come down to cost of living; slightly above, perhaps. Maybe we will find out in the next week or two when the minister deigns to tell us what those figures will be.

I just want to draw to the members' attention the fact that basic structural problems in the universities have not been dealt with. We have the same problems of accessibility we have always had. The poor, kids from working-class families, do not go to universities to the same degree that the sons of doctors and daughters of lawyers do. That is reality.

I invite members who are here in Toronto with extra time on their hands, those who do not live here and are members from outside, to go down to one of our inner-city schools in Regent Park. There are three or four there that a member could go to, to talk to some of the teachers about what happens to their kids from those schools, about how they get streamed in our education system. The member will discover that the huge majority of them get streamed into the basic level, which perpetuates the probability of insecure, low-paying jobs and frittering at the margins of poverty for the rest of their lives, as their parents have had to do in the past. A tiny percentage of them actually get streamed into such courses that could get them into a community college some day or maybe just graduate them from high school.

As many members will know, there is a drop-out problem in our high schools, but if they would care to look at what happens in a high school in Forest Hill in terms of drop-out, with one of the schools designed to give people a vocational background, they will notice there is a huge discrepancy. Some of our vocational schools actually have drop-out rates of almost 80 per cent.

I think about that as a statement about our education system. If we have that kind of a structure at the bottom, is it any wonder that so few of these kids actually make it to university and that the percentages of kids from lower-economic families going to universities have not changed dramatically over the last 30 years?

1650

Now again for a Liberal reform government—I do not mean to lay this term on them if they do not want it; they can call themselves Progressive Conservatives or whatever they want, I am not sure—but if they are members of a Liberal reform

government, as I have heard tell they might be, surely that should run against their basic thinking. It should stick in their craw. It should make them want to change the system dramatically and not just fund it at the present levels of funding. It should make them say, "Something is seriously wrong here."

This last year in the universities about 15 per cent of the eligible applicants did not find a place. I want to talk more about this with the minister in the House and in committee. This government promised us that there would be full accessibility and that anybody who was eligible for university would be able to go, maybe not to the one he wanted but he would be able to go to a university.

If we look at the figures from this last year, there was a five per cent increase in the first-year class and a six per cent increase in eligible applications for the first-year class across Ontario. Next year, as most members are probably aware, the Ontario Schools, Intermediate and Senior Divisions curriculum guidelines come into play and grade 13 ends. Instead of a six per cent increase in first-year applications, we will see an increase of between 10 per cent and 15 per cent in applications to universities.

Some universities—most of them of one kind or another, but some of them—have very specific caps on how many students they will take. At Western, for instance, I think it will work out to 400 plus, the figure that was established in 1979, so maybe that university will be able to accept a five per cent increase next year. What is going to happen to all those kids who want to go to university in this province next year for whom there will not be physical plant and for whom there will not be trained teachers to be able to look after their needs? I think we will come back to that often in this Legislature over the next little while.

I worry that the things we heard about in the throne speech address some things that I think are misdirections in terms of what is wrong with education. When they start to list the small list of things they are interested in in education and they include in it that they want benchmarks and standardized testing and they place that as their emphasis, rather than some of the other goals I think are more important in education, I really wonder whether this government is a Liberal government or a Conservative government.

Most of them went through high school, I presume. I should not be presumptuous but most of us in this august body went to high school in Ontario at a time when there was standardized testing. I do not know if they remember what

those grade 13 tests were like, if any of the members took them, but they were a disaster and they brought out all the worst kinds of things in education that one can imagine.

Mr. Philip: I grew up in a more enlightened province.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: The member for Etobicoke-Rexdale (Mr. Philip) indicates that he came from a more enlightened province and it shows in the kinds of things he asks in the House and in his general deportment. Do we have a consensus on that?

Mr. Mackenzie: Except for his jokes.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Except for his jokes. Yes, this is true.

We can remember what teachers did in those days. They got us ready for the exam. They did not teach us to learn or get us to think about who we were or give us some sense of our responsibilities as young adults. It was an authoritarian system where they drummed into us what it was we had to know in order to pass our grade 13 exam. I suggest to members that anybody who wants to go back to those kinds of basics is really making a major mistake.

This government, as well, has decided it is going to deal with literacy through the Ministry of Skills Development. I know it is dangerous to deal with concepts all the time and I am sorry to do that. Perhaps I should not try to challenge people so much, but why on earth would a Liberal reform government want to deal with the basic education problem—that is, illiteracy—by tying it to job preparation and putting it in the Ministry of Skills Development rather than seeing it as the basic responsibility of our education system? In philosophical terms, what a silly decision that is, what a limiting concept of illiteracy that is.

So what are we talking about? About getting people literate enough to achieve a certain level to go out and function in a certain kind of job in our society, rather than about the basic education system's responsibility to make sure that illiteracy is wiped out.

When you look at the kind of resources that are put into it, you then understand why. The Ministry of Skills Development does not have much money. It is not a major line ministry, and neither is the commitment to wiping out illiteracy a major function of this government's notions of education.

The final thing I want to raise on education is the whole question of child care. I think all of us agree that there has to be an integration of child care within education in some way or other, but

at this stage I see us sending out messages to the school boards of this province about placing day care centres in schools with no concept at all as to whose responsibility they are and what we see as the overall role of day care within the school system.

To bring my remarks to a close, I suppose this is why we have a select committee being struck on education: This government does not really know what it wants to do in education. It really has not worked out the large philosophical questions that should underlie any reform of the education system. As a delay tactic, it establishes a select committee that will give some members per diems—and me too; I am delighted—and time to talk about things that one would have presumed would be part of any throne speech that any government worth its salt going into its third year would have come to grips with already.

I welcome the minister. We have a shift change here. Would the minister like me to start again? He probably has not been watching this. Was he glued to his television?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Yes.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Oh; well, then I will not bother repeating it.

I just want to come back to what is lacking in this speech from the throne and why I am disappointed with it. It lacks vision, any notion of where this government is going in the future. Any areas that are major philosophical challenges have been put off to committee. It backed down on the most profound challenge to any government in Canadian history—that is, the free trade challenge—which it made its cause célèbre and reason for calling an election.

If there is no greater condemnation of a government that I can think of, it is that it is putting itself on a very slippery slope towards the complacency of past Tory regimes by backing away so quickly from all of the principles that are involved in Liberal reform that I would have expected from this government.

The Deputy Speaker: Would some members like to comment on this speech?

Mr. J. M. Johnson: First of all, I would like to congratulate the member for Scarborough West on one of his usually good speeches. I am not going to agree with him on the first part of his speech on free trade. I am not totally against many of the things he mentioned because I too have some concerns about it. I would like to comment on the part of his speech that dealt with the poor of this province. It concerns me as well.

I come from the riding of Wellington, one of the richest farming communities in this province.

On Sunday I attended church and they had a box in the lobby of the church where people could donate food. It bothers me that we have such a rich province and yet there are people who exist on handouts. There is something tragic with our society that this should happen. I do not intend to blame the Liberal government or any government; it is society. But surely we have an obligation or a responsibility to do something to solve problems such as this. We have to deal with it and address it. I hope we can work together to alleviate this problem if there is any meaning in a just society.

Mr. Beer: I would like to comment on a couple of aspects of the educational comments that were made by the member for Scarborough West. I ask him to go back to look at the throne speech and some of the things that were said during the election and also in last April's throne speech. I think there are several thrusts there that are aimed at the question of literacy.

One of them is the emphasis on the primary grades. If we can be successful in putting more emphasis on that area, this will have an impact as we go along. Indeed, in terms of their basic skills, a number of the students he was referring to will be allowed to develop better basic skills through the secondary level and on to university. I think everyone would agree with him that we must ensure that far more people get to university. That thrust is an important one and in that context having literacy also dealt with in the area of skills development makes sense for those who have gone beyond the elementary and secondary levels.

1700

The third point I would make is that I would much rather see a select committee addressing education at this point than perhaps passing it off to a royal commission because there are some real arguments out there about where we are going. There is not agreement, for example, on where standardized testing should fit.

I see it as part of the means but certainly not the only means, nor should it be. Yesterday, we heard that expressed very well by my colleague the member for Muskoka-Georgian Bay (Mr. Black). I think it is through something like the select committee on education that we can bring together a lot of those views that are out there now and we will then have the input to make the decisions on where we go.

Mr. Faubert: I would like to commend the member for Scarborough West on his comments and his speech, especially in the area of free trade. I think he is far more eloquent than his

leader on this issue, and I would like to point out to the House that is probably one of the reasons he survived the last election when the Liberals took five of the six Scarborough seats. He speaks so passionately on many issues that all of us are concerned about and which we think are important.

One issue I would like to address to his party through him is, what suggestions, what options or what actions would that party take if it sat on this side of the House?

Mr. Wildman: On free trade?

Mr. Faubert: On free trade. We have heard a lot of comment and a lot of criticism related to this issue and criticisms of the Premier, but I would like to hear one single positive suggestion from that side of the House.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: The first thing we would do is charge you guys with misleading advertising.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Right.

First, I think my point at the beginning that short speeches are more eloquent than long ones was made perfectly true by my colleague the member for Wellington (Mr. J. M. Johnson) and I appreciate his comments.

The other thing I would say is that I have no disagreement with the perspective of the member for York North (Mr. Beer) on the importance of primary-grade emphasis and talking about having smaller class sizes and that kind of thing. One is a little concerned to learn that the wording of today's announcement of transfer funding talks about the first instalment of money going to that. One wonders how long this is going to take. When the minister tells me he is thinking about having that as one of the things referred to a select committee, I have concerns there as well.

I would just say that I agree with the member: When you are choosing between evils, a royal commission is much more dangerous than a select committee, but they are used sometimes for similar purposes.

I thank my colleague the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere for his comments. I did make a couple of suggestions at the beginning of things I thought should be done, but as my colleague the member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. D. S. Cooke) tells me to say, we would suggest that the Liberal Party's list of suggestions from the past campaign about what is intolerable and what we would stop are all good ones, and we would be happy to follow those up.

The member will be hearing more from us on those proposals, but I would suggest that within the Legislature the responsibility is with the executive council and the government to take

action and for us to oppose, but even the suggestion that we should have a major presence in Washington at this stage would be something that would be a major help.

The Deputy Speaker: Do other members wish to participate in the debate?

Mr. Sterling: I would like to congratulate you at the outset, Mr. Speaker, on your appointment as Deputy Speaker of this House. I am glad eastern Ontario is represented in this particular area; as well, your colleagues from eastern Ontario who have been appointed to the executive council. As a member for eastern Ontario, I would have preferred a few more executive council members with larger portfolios, dealing with what I would call the moneyed ministries, appointed from our area of the province but that was not to be. I was a little disappointed when the cabinet was appointed as far as the representation from our part of the province went.

I guess my second disappointment as a representative from eastern Ontario came along when the throne speech was read in this Legislature not too long ago. You, Mr. Speaker, know eastern Ontario was mentioned all of one time during that speech, and it related to a regurgitation of the promise to build Highway 416 which happened to be announced during that election period in September. As far as eastern Ontario went, this throne speech was a zilch; it was nothing.

We heard some concern by the government in recognition of problems in northern Ontario and we heard some concern about problems in central Ontario, but we did not hear about any concerns in eastern Ontario. I do not have to remind the Deputy Speaker, because he represents an area in eastern Ontario, that we do have problems in eastern Ontario. In fact, if you take the regional municipality of Ottawa-Carleton out of eastern Ontario, the level of family income is lower than any other place in Ontario, and I include the north in that comparison. Therefore, when you are looking at regional programs and areas that need assistance, this government has failed to see the significant need in eastern Ontario—I particularly refer to outside of Ottawa-Carleton—for programs to help that area achieve some economic prosperity.

I said we had mention of Highway 416 in the throne speech. I think that will assist in a large way the area I represented in the previous three parliaments, the county of Grenville, because I believe it will bring it closer to the prosperity that is enjoyed by the Ottawa-Carleton area. I have worked very hard to see the completion of

Highway 416 take place during my period of tenure in this Legislature and I was happy to see the government take that one step.

I must admit I was somewhat pleased also in the throne speech to see that the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan) is going to undertake some preventive health programs. In the last parliament, the 33rd Parliament of this province, I introduced a private member's bill, the Non-Smokers' Protection Act, which went through all of the legislative process: It went through first and second readings; it went out to a committee of this Legislature; we had public hearings; the bill was amended. It came back here and sat on the Orders and Notices paper as the first bill for over six months.

It was unfortunate that this government did not see fit to call that bill, because if it had, we would now have some control over smoking in both public places and the workplace. As members know, we only have one area in the whole province that has that privilege and that is the city of Toronto. They have private legislation and now they have enacted some bylaws that will deal with smoking in the workplace.

Again, in my view, it is a picture of this government, the Liberal government, focusing attention on Toronto and central Ontario and forgetting about the rest. It has basically said, "If you have trouble with a smoker in the workplace, you are OK in the city of Toronto, but if you are in Ottawa, if you live in the city of Kanata, if you live in the city of Nepean, if you live in the city of Gloucester, if you live anywhere else in Ontario, forget it; you do not have any rights when you go to work and someone else is polluting your environment."

1710

I hope that, given the tragedy that is caused each day by both firsthand and secondhand smoke, this government will improve what I call an abysmal record on that whole issue. I think they were in the pockets of the tobacco industry. There was a significant article, I believe, in one of the Toronto newspapers, pointing to how in fact the ties between the Liberal Party and the cigarette and tobacco industries are very close, and I think that is very unfortunate because this very day, in this province alone, 35 to 40 people will die because of firsthand and secondhand smoke, prematurely by about eight years.

As early as 1975 the World Health Organization recognized the addiction to nicotine and the encouragement of people kicking that particular addiction as the first and best preventive health step that any state could take in the industrialized

world. When we talk about 10,000 to 12,000 people dying per year in this province and this government doing nothing about it, I think it is indeed a tremendous lack of concern on its part for the health of our people in Ontario.

I might add that this province in the past two years, since the Liberals have been in power, has gone from the second-highest taxpayer of tobacco products to the second-lowest in Canada. That has resulted, in Ontario, in a tremendous increase in the consumption of tobacco by our young people. In each and every other province tobacco use is falling among young people. In Ontario it is increasing, and you can thank the taxation policies in part—not totally—for creating that consumption among our young people, because it has been proven by a number of research papers that consumption among our young people is directly proportional to the price the young people are paying, and much more so than with the adult users of this very harmful substance.

I will continue as a strong advocate of control of the use of tobacco both in our workplaces and in public places. I do not believe that another person should have the right to assault me through the use of secondhand smoke, particularly in the workplace.

I hope, before leaving that subject, that the Minister of Health will follow through, along with the Minister of Labour (Mr. Sorbara), in doing something about this problem, and I would be glad to help them. I have indicated an open mind in terms of dealing with any legislation in this regard, but let us get on with it.

Again before leaving that subject, I also would like to indicate that our party very much stands behind the Honourable Jake Epp, who has introduced legislation in the federal House dealing with the advertising of tobacco products. We think he has taken a courageous step with regard to that particular legislation, in the face of a significant tobacco lobby. We urge him to pass that legislation, as both the federal Liberal Party and the federal New Democratic Party have said they would do.

I would like to say a few words about education, particularly education in the Carleton Board of Education area, as this is the area in which the Carleton riding is located. My colleague the member for Carleton East (Mr. Morin) also represents an area—and I believe another member has an interest as well—that deals with the Carleton Board of Education and the Carleton Roman Catholic Separate School Board.

We were very pleased, and I think all the politicians were pleased, to see the government put some funding towards lowering the pupil-teacher ratio in grades 1 and 2, but the biggest problem we face in the Carleton area is that it makes a bad situation worse. For instance, in the Carleton Board of Education we have a pupil-teacher ratio of about 23 to one at the present time. With the creation of this requirement of a pupil-teacher ratio of 20 to one in the Carleton board area, we are going to have to hire 40 more teachers. While that in itself might be seen as a very progressive step, and I think it is a progressive step, that means 40 more classrooms.

Quite frankly, we have not in the past been treated fairly in eastern Ontario with regard to the provision of classrooms not only in the Carleton Board of Education but in the Carleton Roman Catholic Separate School Board as well. I would just like to point out what happened in terms of capital expenditures last year.

Not only did the Carleton Board of Education and the Carleton Roman Catholic Separate School Board do extremely poorly at the hands of this government in 1987 with regard to capital expenditures but so also did the rest of eastern Ontario. Out of \$293 million in capital that our Minister of Education put forward last year, eastern Ontario in total got about \$25 million, a very small percentage, about 20 per cent of the total.

What makes the matter even worse in areas I represent and the member for Carleton East represents is that we are in an area which is expanding rapidly. We have communities like the city of Kanata, the township of Goulbourn, the township of Cumberland, the city of Gloucester and the city of Nepean that are expanding rapidly.

One Wednesday last May the then Minister of Education, the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway), who was also from eastern Ontario, came into this Legislature and even said he recognized that there were four growing boards in Ontario that were very needy of capital funds: the Durham region, the Dufferin-Peel area, the York area and the Carleton area. The very next day he announced his capital expenditures for 1988. I just want to tell members what some of the other areas got first, and then we will talk about what we got in eastern Ontario.

The Peel Board of Education asked for \$36 million and got \$24 million, about two thirds or 66 per cent of its request. The Dufferin-Peel Roman Catholic Separate School Board asked

for \$90 million and got \$43 million, about 48 per cent of what it requested. The Durham Board of Education asked for \$21 million and got \$13 million, about 65 per cent of what it requested. The Durham Region Roman Catholic Separate School Board requested \$18.7 million and got \$18.4 million, 98.4 per cent of what it requested.

Now we will go to good old, or poor old, Carleton. The Carleton Roman Catholic Separate School Board requested \$65 million and got \$9.6 million, 14.7 per cent of what it asked for. What was the other one I just read? Durham Region Roman Catholic Separate School Board, 98.4 per cent. What is the matter with us in eastern Ontario? The Carleton Board of Education asked for \$35 million and got \$4.6 million, 13.1 per cent of what it requested. So, averaged between the two Carleton boards, we got about 14 per cent of what we needed.

1720

I attended at the offices of the Minister of Education (Mr. Ward) with the Roman Catholic separate school board not long ago. There was an argument: "Well, listen. All of these boards are suffering from the same problem; they have portable schools." I am very proud of the Roman Catholic separate school board because it came well prepared and told the minister, "Look, Minister, we do not agree that portables are good anywhere, but we do not know why our kids should be worse off than any other kids in this province."

If one looks at the Peel Board of Education, about 13 per cent of its kids are in portable classrooms. In the Dufferin-Peel Roman Catholic Separate School Board, 21 per cent of its kids are in portables. Look at the Carleton Roman Catholic Separate School Board; nearly one third of its kids are in portable classrooms. In the last two years, under this Liberal government, the portable classrooms have increased by 100 in both the Carleton Board of Education and Carleton Roman Catholic Separate School Board. That is not taking out any of the other ones. Portable classrooms were not introduced for the first time, but the growth in the area of the portable classrooms has been phenomenal in the last two years.

I might remind the Speaker that this is at a time when government revenues have increased dramatically. They have gone from about \$26 billion to \$35 billion over two years, almost a 30 per cent to 33 per cent increase in income. Yet this government cannot build the schools we need in the Carleton board area. This government will not even give us a fair shake when compared

to the rest of the province. They are being unfair. That is all we are asking for: give us a fair shake.

During the campaign, the question came up often. The Premier came down to our particular area and said we would be taken care of in the next capital forecast. I am going to be watching exactly what happens in the next capital forecast. I hope new members from the other area, particularly those who joined me when the Carleton board did come there—the member for Nepean (Mr. Daigeler) was there; I hope he is going to pressure the Minister of Education to give us a fair shake in eastern Ontario and particularly in the Carleton board area.

I would like to mention briefly another issue which is of prime concern in the Ottawa-Carleton area, and that is getting hydro to eastern Ontario. As members know, we have a large power corridor going from the Lennox generating station, which is located approximately around Kingston, up to the Ottawa area. I see the member for Niagara Falls (Mr. Kerrio), the former Minister of Energy, here as well. I am glad he is here, because he has been involved in this issue before.

In November 1984, Ontario Hydro came into the community of Bridlewood in the city of Kanata. Ontario Hydro said to the people in Bridlewood: "Listen. You are one of eight different routes to bring this hydro corridor into Ottawa. You are the farthest north. Our preferred route goes south of the community, south of where all the houses are built. You do not need to worry. We just have to go through this process."

In fact, the corridor there already is too narrow, anyway. They said it was too narrow: 270 feet. That is what they told the people. That is what they told the alderman of the area at that time. Time went on and they had a joint board hearing. The joint board, in its wisdom, picked up a suggestion of a number of parties and decided to divert the hydro line from the preferred route to go smack through the community of Bridlewood.

What did Hydro say? "Hey, there's no problem now. There was a technical problem before, you've got a corridor that is only 270 feet wide, but you know how we're going to solve this? We're not going to build towers that are eight storeys high, we're going to build towers that are 16 storeys high. We're going to put two of them through."

That is how they beat their technical problem. That is how Hydro takes care of the problem and takes care of the people. It does not matter what

they told the people in that November 1984 meeting, that they did not really need to worry.

Then there was an appeal to cabinet. An appeal to cabinet took place in 1985, and the cabinet decided to turn that appeal down. There was another hearing in December 1986; it is getting so long ago now. It was appealed again by the residents of Bridlewood, by a group that was led by Mrs. Judith Hunter. It is kind of interesting to note that Judith Hunter considered running for the Liberal nomination to run against me, but she got so fed up with this government she decided not to run for that particular nomination.

Interjections.

Mr. Sterling: I am lucky, because I think she was a very, very credible candidate, as she is a very credible lady and is handling herself in a very honourable fashion in dealing with this whole issue.

Interjections.

Mr. Miller: Norm, can I smoke?

Mr. Sterling: The member for Norfolk (Mr. Miller) could do anything he wants.

Interjections.

Mr. Sterling: I was interrupted by the member from the tobacco belt who does not agree with controlling smoking in the workplace and in public places. I can understand that. I can understand why, and he has convinced his other colleagues that this is not a significant health problem that 35 people will die today because of the damn thing. Go ahead. We will see who is right in the long run.

Interjections.

Mr. Sterling: I do not know what that has to do with that. I am sorry, I get a little emotional because it is a pretty touchy subject when you are talking about the devastation that nicotine does to our people. Anyway, let us get back to Hydro, because it is a health care issue too. We are talking about two kinds of environmental issues here.

This group in the Bridlewood area is very much concerned about the effects of the electromagnetic fields that are associated with these high-tension lines. They do not want their children exposed to these electromagnetic fields. They feel, because of numerous research studies that have gone on—not at the request of this particular government but at the request of other governments like the state of New York, which has invested \$6 million into this kind of research—that there is a significant health hazard from this kind of environmental danger.

This group has disputed not only the process that has taken place and the fact that it has not been given a fair hearing with regard to the location of these lines but also the health effects of this particular matter.

This whole matter was appealed to the cabinet of Ontario in January 1987. It is almost 10 months later now, and we have had pronouncements from the government and from Hydro that it has been decided and it has not been decided, it has been decided. We had the former Minister of Municipal Affairs, now the Minister of Revenue (Mr. Grandmaître), say on one fine Friday that he had a gut feeling it was going to go through, and then the next Monday—he somehow, I guess, lost his feeling in his guts over the weekend—he said that the decision had not been made by cabinet.

Hydro appeared one day on the hydro line with its construction equipment. Evidently, somebody told them that the decision had been made to go ahead and start construction. Then they were told to get off the right of way.

1730

This has been a tragic comedy of errors in dealing with this community. The community is extremely upset about the whole matter. They have stated to the government that should they lose the appeal, they intend to take this to a court proceeding. They have now raised over \$14,000 to take it to the next step, if the cabinet should decide in its wisdom to bash ahead without giving them a fair hearing. During and before the election, I supported the Bridlewood community in getting a fair hearing. Our leader went to that community and listened to the people of Bridlewood. The Premier did not listen to the people of that community.

I think that the plan of this government is to wait long enough. The former Minister of Energy will be happy to hear that Hydro was on the radio and television on Friday, talking about brown-outs and blackouts, saying the Bridlewood corridor is going to stop Ottawa-Carleton from getting hydro, that people are going to freeze this winter because the Bridlewood community has slowed down the progress of construction of those towers.

I said to that minister in December of last year, "You have the power to go to Hydro and call another hearing to consider that particular part of the route."

Mr. Harris: If he cared.

Mr. Sterling: If he cared. If he wanted the route to go through and be done with and dealt with in a fair and equitable manner, he had the power.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: You did not make a good case. You had a poor case.

Mr. Sterling: The former Minister of Energy may have thought I made poor case. I made an adequate case to the people of Bridlewood because they voted overwhelmingly for Norm Sterling. They thought I was on their side. I guess one of the most disappointing parts of this whole process was the loss of faith by not only the Bridlewood community but also the community at large in the ability of this government to control Ontario Hydro.

I want to read to members from a letter to someone with regard to the eastern transmission line:

"As indicated at the meeting, we are in full agreement over the need to bring Ontario Hydro back under the control of the Legislature and have called on the government to re-establish a select committee of the Legislature to examine Ontario Hydro's expansion proposals.

"We are not convinced of Hydro's claim for the necessity of this project and believe that there are many alternatives that must be thoroughly investigated before a new transmission line is justified, such as the falling demand for electricity," etc., etc.

"We are concerned that Hydro's hidden agenda for this transmission line may very well be to export power to the United States, as this may be the only way for Ontario Hydro to justify the Darlington project they are talking about."

Guess who that is signed by? Do members know who that is signed by? Dated June 20, 1983, it is signed by the member for London Centre (Mr. Peterson), the then Leader of the Opposition. What have we seen this government do with regard to control in Ontario? Zilch. Nothing. They have done nothing. No select committee—

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: You killed the committee.

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker (Miss Roberts): Order, gentlemen, please.

Mr. Sterling: There is an obvious need—

Mr. Harris: You need the committee because you won't take action. We did not need the committee because we are prepared to act. Obviously, you need the committee the way you operate. You would not take on your responsibility.

The Acting Speaker: Order. Would the honourable members come to order please.

Mr. Sterling: I hope this government will make a decision very soon to give the people of

the Bridlewood community in the city of Kanata a fair hearing once and for all. The people of Bridlewood deserve that. They have not had a fair hearing to date. They are concerned about the health effects of a twin 500-kilovolt line, 16 Tories—I mean storeys—

Mr. McGuinty: That is not very high.

Mr. Sterling: —16 storeys high, which is not supported by the 16 Tories who are sitting on this side of the House.

We want a fair hearing for these people, and I hope the government will listen once and for all and get on with a new hearing so that we can get on with building that line and ensure power to the people of Ottawa-Carleton. The government should not use that as an excuse for making the wrong decision, because by the time it gets through the courts with this group, the government is going to be a long time without power.

I would like to turn now to another subject, if that is satisfactory. I would like to talk about freer trade. I think it is the most important issue we are facing in Ontario, probably the most important issue we have dealt with in terms of the economic viability of Ontario for some period of time. Representing the city of Kanata, which is very much an area that is reliant on the high-tech industries, I want to say that many industries in our area are concerned with the attitude of the government on this issue.

I would like to read a letter from the vice-president and general manager of Lumonics Inc., which is probably the largest producer of laser-related technology products.

"Dear Mr. Sterling:

"As the elected representative for our constituency, I would like to bring to your attention the position that my company takes on the Canada-US free trade agreement. I would like to make it clear at the outset that we strongly support the agreement.

"While there may be some immediate benefit to Lumonics in reduced duty and better service to our Canadian and US customers because our parts and people can cross the border more easily, the real benefit is in the potential for the long-term economic growth in both countries. Thus, we expect to increase exports in the long run as a result of this agreement.

"We sell products in a number of key industrial sectors and we are quite capable of getting our fair share of any market we compete in. The agreement is good for Canada and, I believe, good for my company."

I think that is the essence of where the Conservative Party stands on this particular

issue. We believe that a free trade agreement, an agreement which knocks down barriers and tariffs between Ontario and our largest trading partner can be nothing but beneficial to our province.

I was somewhat taken aback by a poll on the free trade issue which I heard this morning. I was taken aback because of the understanding of our general public on the issue. Only 19 per cent of the people who were asked about free trade said they had an adequate understanding of the issue to form an opinion.

I thought, because there seems to be a lack of concern on the part of the Peterson government to try to explain the issue, that all is rhetoric, it is emotion: "I am wrapping myself in the Ontario and Canadian flag. Everybody be afraid of this thing. I won't tell you what I want, but be frightened of this." The Premier did it during the election campaign very successfully.

1740

While he won 95 seats, and no one can argue with that, it is interesting to note whether that decides anything on free trade. I understand the polls at that time were such that there were more people in favour of free trade in Ontario than were against it. I do not know how one relates or matches the two results.

Trade is generally controlled by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. Canada is one of 90-odd countries that are associated with the general agreement. Simply put, if you want to trade in the free world, you have to be one of the club, you have to be a member of GATT, you have to agree to what is set down in those agreements. It meets from time to time to discuss reducing tariffs in the general sense. I believe the overall philosophy behind that is to allow one country to do what it does best and to allow another country to do what it does best, so that everybody in the world will have in general a better life and a higher standard of living. One of the things people do not mention very often about this bilateral agreement, for instance, is that our consumers will be buying things cheaper than they are now. That is the whole idea of GATT.

Under GATT, two countries can enter into a bilateral agreement. GATT is a multilateral agreement; it means a lot of different trading partners. Under GATT, you can also enter into a bilateral trading agreement, but only to lower tariffs between those two countries and providing that that agreement does not prejudice other countries which want to trade with either of those two countries. The bilateral agreement is okay, as far as GATT is concerned, as long as it lowers

tariffs. It could not agree to put a shell around the two countries and act against others in a different manner.

During the past few years, as we know, the United States has complained and its politicians have complained that countries are not playing fair with them. What I hear American politicians saying, as I did in Indianapolis in July, when I was there hearing several of the United States presidential hopefuls speak, is that what they want, not only from Canada but from other countries, is the right to build and do what they can do best and to be able to do that and trade with other countries. They want the right to do what they do best and to compete, not only at home but in other countries. They are saying to us, "We will allow you to come into our country and compete and have access to the world's largest market in the free world if you allow us that same right." That is what freer trade is all about.

I am going to talk about this agreement in a little while if I get any opportunity.

Mr. Harris: Tomorrow or the next day.

Mr. Sterling: Well, maybe tomorrow or the next day. Americans have said to us over the past two years—

Interjections.

Mr. Sterling: The Liberals may treat this as a laughing matter, but as I said, it is the most serious—

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: That is not what we were talking about.

Mr. Sterling: Well, I do not know what they are all laughing about; that is fine.

The Americans have said to us over the past two years: "We won't take it any more. We won't take this any more. Either you allow us to compete on a fair basis or we are going to take some retaliatory action." They have done that a number of times. They did it with softwood lumber. They did it with pork. They did it with shakes and shingles. We do not know what they are going to do next or what they can do next.

Now, let us get to the agreement that we have talked about here. I guess the most disturbing part that I find in terms of the Peterson government, the Liberal government, in dealing with the agreement and the free trade issue is that the Premier keeps telling us, "I gotta have this condition, I gotta have this condition, I gotta have this condition; this is no good, this is no good, that is no good."

Well, what is good? What kind of agreement does the Premier want? What kind of binding mechanism does he want?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member for Carleton has the floor.

Mr. Sterling: The throne speech refers to the free trade agreement and it says, "The agreement contains concessions that will seriously compromise Canada's sovereign ability to shape its own political and economic agenda." Then it says that it, the government, will undertake impact studies on the agreement's impact on selected Ontario industries.

Quite an enlightened approach. They do not tell you what they would like. They do not tell you what kind of process they would like, what kind of freer trade agreement they would like. And the Liberals have said they were in favour of free trade. The member for Ottawa West (Mr. Chiarelli), who is here with us this afternoon—I was in a debate during the election; he said he was in favour of free trade.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: What we are saying is that we are against this goofy deal.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I am sorry to interrupt the member, but I wonder if I could remind all members that the standing orders call for a short period of comments and questions after the member finishes speaking.

Mr. Sterling: The thing this government has done is complain and bitch. They have not been constructive in any sense about the process. We have not heard how they are going to retrain the workers. They have not talked about what is going to happen when free trade actually is achieved. They have not done anything in terms of being constructive on the issue.

What they have done is commission some reports, and we have received three of them now.

The first was under the guise of the law firm of Blake, Cassels and Graydon. That report was about the dispute settlement mechanism. As all members would know, I am sure, having read the free trade agreement—I am sure all of you have—the majority of the free trade agreement actually is related to the dispute mechanism.

It is amazing what lawyers can do. The member for Ottawa West will know what lawyers can do. They can say, "On the one hand, this; and on the other hand, that," and they do not come to any decision. That is exactly what Blake, Cassels has done with its analysis of the dispute settlement mechanism.

They say, "In respect of disputes involving adverse legislative changes to anti-dumping and countervail laws, the mechanism cannot be

regarded as binding." Then they go on to argue that the only way it would be binding would be for either Canada or the United States to opt out of what this joint board would decide and cancel the agreement. I argue with the minister. He talks about maintaining our sovereignty. Does he want the binational panel to have the authority to make trade law in Canada? Is that what the Premier wants?

1750

Mr. D. R. Cooke: If necessary, yes.

Mr. Sterling: The member wants that? The member wants the panel to make trade law in Canada. He does not want Canada to have the power to protect the interests of Canada.

Mr. D. R. Cooke: Absolutely, because that is the only way we are going to get protection in the United States.

Mr. Sterling: The member and I fundamentally disagree on what we—

Interjection.

Mr. Sterling: I can understand. Now I understand that the Premier wants to give away sovereignty. He had better take off the flag. He wants to give it away. If that is what the Premier wants, if he wants the right to give a binational panel the right to make trade law in Canada, so be it. We are not with that. That is what the member opposite has said.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: No, that is not what he said at all.

Mr. Sterling: That is what the member said. He will have a chance, if he is here tomorrow, to rebut that.

The other thing that is interesting in this particular Blake, Cassels report with regard to the binding power of the binational decisions is that it says the only sanction offered is the termination of the agreement, and it says something about the antidumping and countervail actions. There are two kinds of things the binational panel would be concerned with. One would be future trade law and the other thing would be any countervailing or antidumping going on in either country.

I do not know how the fellow who wrote this particular report says there is no binding mechanism in this dispute with regard to antidumping or countervailing when I look at the actual agreement. I do not know how many members have read the actual agreement, but under "binational panel dispute settlement," section C, it says: "The decision of a panel shall be binding on the parties and their investigating authorities."

It is clear, when I talk to other people who are familiar with this particular agreement, that they consider there is a binding mechanism with regard to ADCV actions.

Mr. D. R. Cooke: Binding in American law.

Mr. Sterling: Binding through a binational panel.

Interjections.

Mr. Sterling: Those guys are amazing. I am glad they are clarifying their position because I am going back to my riding and I am going to tell the people that what they want to do is give away the right of Canada to make its own trade policy. That is what those guys want. We do not want that.

So what I see is a dispute resolution mechanism that is as good as one can possibly get to maintain our sovereignty, yet have some action with regard to countervail—actually, very good action with regard to countervail and antidumping—but also with some say as to future trade laws.

I would like to talk briefly about some of the other reports that have been produced by this government. I do not know, with regard to some of the other reports, what they are actually trying to accomplish in these particular reports, because, first, you are never told who is crafting the report or who is doing it. This most recent one by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Mr. Kwinter), the Sectoral and Regional Sensitivity of Ontario Manufacturing Industries to Tariff Reductions, appears to be a telephone consultation process that went on with people who wanted to bitch about free trade. That is really what it appears to be.

As I said in my statement yesterday with regard to this thing, it is a joke. It is a piece of propaganda. If you do not ask the questions that are even and objective, if you do not say, "What are the good sides and what are the negative sides of this deal?" what you have is a piece of propaganda, a piece of junk that is not good to anybody. That is a problem. I will tell members this. I do not like all the information coming out of our federal government because I think it should do the same thing. It should have an even hand in saying what is good and what is bad, so the people can become educated as to what this all means.

The other government report on women in the manufacturing sector and the possibility of 100,000 job losses was a very selective analysis

indeed. One of the disturbing things about that particular report was that it conveyed that the same percentage of men would be affected as women. You inject in a side issue women's rights in order to win the debate on free trade.

The sectorial and regional sensitivity report says there could be 400,000 jobs lost to this demon free trade. This is what this thing says, that the minister goes outside of this house and says to the press. These 400,000 jobs are in jeopardy regardless of free trade because most of the sensitive industries we are talking about are not going to be subject to problems in a bilateral agreement. They will be subject to problems if the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade negotiations knock the tariffs down around those particular industries because that is where the imports are coming from in the sensitive trades. That is where the competition is coming from, not from the United States. The 400,000 jobs this thing talks about: it is a joke; it is ridiculous. How are we expected to believe this propaganda?

Members may remember the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology's quotes in a report called An Assessment of Direct Employment Effects of Freer Trade for Ontario's Manufacturing Industries. This very significant report that was done for this government—by the government, the government's own hands—said that "of 894,000 manufacturing jobs in 1983, 281,000 were in sectors that would be particularly sensitive to a free trade agreement with the United States because they were protected and inefficient."

But what happens when you read the back of the report? The back of the report shows that those very sensitive industries between 1978 and 1984 became healthier when tariff barriers were falling under the GATT negotiations. We can become efficient if we are challenged. Even the weaker industries have historically shown that they can rise to the challenge. That is what we in the Conservative Party believe to be the case. We believe all industries can be competitive. We believe they can compete.

I know members are dying to hear me go on but I will adjourn the debate at this particular point.

On motion by Mr. Sterling, the debate was adjourned.

The House adjourned at 6 p.m.

ERRATA

No.	Page	Column	Line	Should read:
7	281	2	39	but we do have one close by, and ore processing is
7	282	2	46	actively pursued, with route information sessions
7	283	1	24	“lifestyle” area of preventive health. Peter- borough

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*

(130 seats)

First Session, 34th Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. Lincoln M. Alexander, PC, QC

- Adams, Peter (Peterborough L)
 Allen, Richard (Hamilton West NDP)
 Ballinger, William G. (Durham-York L)
 Beer, Charles (York North L)
 Black, Kenneth H. (Muskoka-Georgian Bay L)
 Bossy, Maurice L. (Chatham-Kent L)
Bradley, Hon. James J., Minister of the Environment (St. Catharines L)
 Brandt, Andrew S. (Sarnia PC)
 Breaugh, Michael J. (Oshawa NDP)
 Brown, Michael A. (Algoma-Manitoulin L)
 Bryden, Marion (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
 Callahan, Robert V. (Brampton South L)
 Campbell, Sterling (Sudbury L)
Caplan, Hon. Elinor, Minister of Health (Oriole L)
 Carrothers, Douglas A. (Oakville South L)
 Charlton, Brian A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)
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 Harris, Michael D. (Nipissing PC)
 Hart, Christine E. (York East L)
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No. 9

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

First Session, 34th Parliament
Thursday, November 19, 1987

Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: Claude L. DesRosiers

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Contents of the proceedings reported in this issue of Hansard appears at the back, together with an alphabetical list of members of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Thursday, November 19, 1987

The House met at 10 a.m.

Prayers.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE (continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

Mr. Sterling: As I was beginning my remarks yesterday afternoon on the whole matter of free trade, I thought it was very important to recommend to the members of this Legislature an article written in the *Globe and Mail* this morning on page A7. It is called, "In Praise of the Free Trade Pact: Peterson Bid to Sink Deal Misguided."

If one reads through the various six points the Premier (Mr. Peterson) has put forward and reads a very noted economist's view of those six points, Dr. John Crispo, no doubt one will come to a logical conclusion that the Premier is misguided in opposing this free trade deal.

Interjections.

Mr. Sterling: The Liberal members must have had a good night of sleep because they seem to be quite boisterous this morning.

I would like to make a few remarks with regard to our market supply system. As the members know, the market supply system is extremely important to our agricultural industry, particularly in eastern Ontario because we rely so heavily on the dairy industry, which is a great benefactor of that particular situation.

In March 1987, John Wise, the federal Minister of Agriculture, stood in the House of Commons and said that the market supply system would not be sacrificed in this free trade deal. Yet when we went through the election campaign which culminated on September 10, there were a number of people who were out there on the government side saying: "If a free trade deal is made, you are going to lose 50 per cent of your quota. You are going to lose your livelihood." Now we find, of course, after the free trade deal has been made, that no such thing has occurred. In fact, some of the dairy industry think they are

in a better position than they ever were before a free trade deal and the negotiations took place.

I think that was evidenced the other day when I asked the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell) about that specific topic. The only reply he could give me in answer to a question as to whether he supported the free trade deal was, "Well, we will have to wait and see what the final wording of the document is." That is a pretty weak response in terms of the positions he and his party were taking during the election campaign when they were literally frightening our dairy farmers into a position of supporting that party. The next time through, they are not going to forget the positions they took and how much that whole campaign was a fraud, as the New Democratic Party has pointed out.

Mr. D. R. Cooke: Let us hear the evidence that the dairy industry favours it.

Mr. Sterling: The member for Kitchener wants the evidence that the dairy farmers are supporting it. I will tell the him what the evidence is. The evidence was in the reply of the Minister of Agriculture and Food. He would have stood up and banged away as he did in the campaign if he had the dairy farmers on his back about the deal, and they are not on his back. They know that yoghurt and ice cream are going on the protected list and that they are going to have a larger market than they ever had before.

As well, I want the members to know that during the campaign I wrote to every dairy farmer in my riding pointing out that the Progressive Conservative Party would not support a deal which did not protect our market supply system.

Mr. D. R. Cooke: Then you reversed yourself after the campaign. Now you are supporting that kind of a deal. Shame.

Mr. Sterling: The member for Kitchener is making little sense this morning.

We have retained a constant position. The market supply system, as I mentioned before, was not put in jeopardy by the deal that was cut by the federal government. In fact, it was protected. Our party said we would not support a deal that did put the market supply system in jeopardy, and so our position remains constant.

I would like to speak just briefly about this government's record with regard to dealing with a number of school boards in the Ottawa-Carleton and Prescott-Russell area which have been under study. I am referring to two reports, the one that was given to us yesterday in the Legislature, a report of the Prescott-Russell School Board Study Committee—you will be very familiar with it as you represent that area, Mr. Deputy Speaker—and also the report of the Ottawa-Carleton French-Language Education Advisory Committee that was undertaken by a former colleague of ours, Albert Roy.

If we look at the two main recommendations in these two reports dealing with the structure of boards, in the Roy report, the committee recommends that the Ottawa-Carleton French-language school board have two sections, a Roman Catholic section and a public section. That is the basis of the structure on which Mr. Roy and his colleagues set up their report.

It is interesting to note that the Prescott-Russell School Board Study Committee also establishes a joint board. The new structures include a combined French-language board of education, an English-language public board of education and an English-language Catholic board of education. So they are also recommending a joint board, a joint Roman Catholic board with a public board.

Members may remember that during the third reading of Bill 30 I put forward an amendment to Bill 30 to permit various sections or parts of this province to bring together both the Roman Catholic section and the public section, particularly in areas which were sparsely populated, so that they could work together to provide education for both of the school systems. That suggestion was turned down by this government.

Before we spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on reports like these two reports, I would like the government to decide whether it is going to allow joint boards or not. What we have seen is the government take a position against that kind of structure and then send out committees to look at structures of school boards and not eliminate that option. Either eliminate the option or embrace the option.

1010

Heretofore, this government has said you cannot have an amalgamated or joint school board; so if that is an option, I think the government should make a policy statement in that regard. Then boards that are going to be created, not only in the Prescott-Russell and Ottawa-Carleton areas but in other parts of this

province, could benefit from joint boards if both boards wanted, voluntarily, to enter into such an arrangement.

I wanted to point that out because we now have two reports which may have to be shelved, junked, thrown out or trashed after a lot of hard work by some very dedicated individuals, because the very keystone of the report is a structure which has not been accepted by this government before.

I would like to mention two environmental matters. Mr. Deputy Speaker, you would know, coming from an area close to Ottawa-Carleton, that we have had some difficulty between our region and the Ministry of the Environment. I have a particular concern about a dump which is located in West Carleton, where we have a situation of contamination of the water supply of many of the residents whom I represent—they are on well water and septic tanks in that area. I am referring to a dump which is called the Rump Dump, if you can imagine. At any rate, the leachate from this dump site is causing a ground water contamination problem.

The owner of that site is the Newill Corp. They have agreed to install a water system for the residents in that area and they have agreed to put out over \$1 million to do that. Part of the deal with regard to this dump site owner is that the treated leachate from the dump goes into the regional sewer system.

The region says it has had previous experience with the Ministry of the Environment, particularly dealing with the oil at the Lees Avenue area. They have said that no matter what the region seems to try to do to clean up an environmental problem—and they spent over \$5 million trying to clean up the Lees Avenue problem—the Ministry of the Environment comes down and starts to lay charges and prosecute the regional municipality of Ottawa-Carleton, even though it is not responsible for the creation of the environmental problem.

We now have a Mexican standoff, if that is what you want to call it, between the regional municipality of Ottawa-Carleton and the Ministry of the Environment. I will quote from Andy Haydon's letter to the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley), which was written on July 27, 1987.

"If the region accepts the contaminated ground water under any of the above conditions and, subsequently, environmentally hazardous materials are discovered leaching from the landfill site"—let us take polychlorinated biphenyls, for example—"they would be in our sewer system, in

our plant and, ultimately, in the Ottawa River. Your enforcement branch would prosecute the region. It is this concern that forbids us from accepting the contaminated ground water."

What we have is the owner of this dump, a dump which is sorely needed in order for us to handle the waste we are producing in the Ottawa-Carleton area, saying: "I will take care of the local residents' ground water. I will supply them with regional water by investing over \$1 million in order to do this, but you have to take the leachate that comes out of the dump." That leachate must go somewhere anyway, and it is probably best treated in the regional sewer system, because it would have the experience and expertise to handle that.

Now the region is saying: "Because the Ministry of the Environment does not like to solve problems with us but likes to create a conflict and get us into court and act like the big hitters and they are for environment, rather than solving the problem; we are demanding that the Ministry of the Environment assume responsibility under any defaulted conditions incurred by the region as a result of either the failure of the company to undertake what it has or if an environmental standard cannot be leachproof."

I do not think the Minister of the Environment can agree to that. Here we have a situation of hostility built between the regional municipality of Ottawa-Carleton and the Ministry of the Environment. I have 70 residents on Alexander Crescent near the village of Stittsville who are subject to bad water. We have a Mexican standoff. We have a situation where one level of government cannot work with another level of government, and I think it is a sorry day.

I also point out that I wrote to the minister on September 3 of this year, during the election campaign, because this issue was raised with me. I asked him to set up a meeting with Mr. Haydon, the regional chairman, but I have not yet received a reply to that letter written two and a half months ago. That is what the Minister of the Environment cares about 70 people who are at risk with regard to ground water in their area, a problem that could be solved if this Minister of the Environment starts to become co-operative in trying to resolve problems, rather than being more interested in penalties and hitting down people who have tried to resolve environmental problems.

I would like to bring forward another environmental problem. I wish the Minister of the Environment was here today to hear my remarks.

Hon. Mr. Mancini: What do you think he is up to?

Mr. Sterling: Maybe he is making a call to Andy Haydon. I hope that is what he is doing because that would be very helpful.

Last May or June, I asked the Minister of the Environment a question as to his interest in the whole environmental problem with radon gas. At that time, he promised in this Legislature to look into it. I had a constituency interest in it because I have a company in my riding which has an interest in manufacturing detection devices for radon gas. It is another one of the many high-tech companies in my area and, I might add, they could not be alive if they did not have the United States market to sell their particular devices to. I asked the minister if he was taking any action with regard to radon gas.

I am told that a few days ago the TV program Marketplace had a significant program on this problem. It is a great problem in some parts of Manitoba. It is also a fairly significant problem in some places in Ontario; yet the government continues to sit on the problem without telling people that there is a problem.

We have a problem in the Ottawa-Carleton area because we basically sit on a very large plateau of uranium and radioactive material. The United States is 20 to 30 years ahead of us with regard to this environmental concern. Each year the Environmental Protection Agency undertakes tests in 10 different states to discover whether there is a general, overall problem in various parts of various states. For instance, there is a very significant problem in the state of New Jersey.

1020

But the point of the Marketplace program, and the point I guess I was trying to put forward to the Minister of the Environment last spring, was that we can radon-proof or we can keep the radon gas out of a house relatively inexpensively if we do it at the time of building. Building codes and development laws are under the jurisdiction of the province, yet in response to my question—the minister was kind enough to send me a letter some month or two later—he really just shoved it over to the Ministry of Labour, said the Ministry of Labour is doing something about it and washed his hands of the whole problem with regard to radon gas.

This is a problem that many people would shrug off and say, "What are you talking about, Sterling? It is not a big deal," etc., but we just do not know how big the problem is. The fact of the matter is, there is an estimate that in Canada

about 500 people are now dying of lung cancer because of the radioactive material that is located in houses.

It is particularly of importance in rural areas where people have sump pumps, because that is the primary point of leakage into a house. Therefore, I would like the Minister of the Environment to look at this problem in a serious way and at least locate the areas where there is a higher danger of this kind of environmental hazard. I would also like him to consider amending the law and amending the Ontario Building Code to require builders to radon-proof houses in those areas where there is a higher risk. I am going to continue to raise that matter over the next little while until this government decides to do something in a positive sense about that.

The members of the Legislature have been extremely patient in listening to the many concerns that I have, not only with regard to my riding of Carleton but also with regard to other provincial issues in the Ottawa-Carleton area. As the only member of the opposition from the area, I feel I have an obligation to speak in opposition and in opposing policies which affect not only my riding but all ridings of Ottawa-Carleton. Therefore, I hope members understand the length and breadth of my remarks in that regard.

Mr. Tatham: I would like to thank the member for Carleton for his comments about banning smoking. However, I would like to point out that a number of farmers in our area have economic problems. The infrastructure around those farmers is also a problem. I would like to suggest that we have to take some action to help these people, and I would like to see what comments could come from the member for Carleton to assist these farmers.

Concerning the other comment about this matter of leachate, we also had a problem in our county. Somebody had allowed a dump to be established many years ago. A number of households had some—

Mr. Black: Don't bring up the past.

Mr. Tatham: I am sorry. No, this is true. The leachate ran down into the wells and the rest of the municipalities in our county, combined with the ministry, had to put up some money to assist these people. I would like to suggest that by working together we can overcome some of these problems, but the municipalities themselves have to co-operate with the ministry.

Mr. D. R. Cooke: I am going to touch on just one of the many things the member for Carleton mentioned, and it is the one that he asked me to touch on last night. Unfortunately, considering

that he represents the city of Kanata in the heart of the Silicon Valley, he is woefully inadequate in his understanding of countervail, why we want it and why the Conservative caucus, up until October of this year, wanted a binding dispute settlement mechanism.

Countervail is an American-created impediment to world free trade. They forced it on the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade by sheer brute force of their power and they have used it on hundreds of occasions against the rest of the world. Between 1982 and 1985, \$6.5 billion annually in Canadian exports to the United States have been affected by countervail. That represents nine per cent of our exports to the United States and 170,000 jobs that the member for Carleton does not care about.

Only once in history has countervail been used against the US. It was used by the Ontario corn producers in 1987, and the Ontario corn producers have now priced themselves out of the market and perhaps are sorry they took countervail action against the US.

My conclusion, from listening very carefully to the member for Carleton, is that he is a long way from joining the 19 per cent of the Canadian public who understand free trade.

Mr. Dietsch: I listened with great interest and very intently to the member for Carleton's presentation over the last two days. I find it interesting that he does not share quite as intently the views of his colleague the member for Durham East (Mr. Cureatz), who was so concerned he interrupted me on a point of order, which I found extremely interesting and, to say the least, very challenging.

I found it quite interesting that the member for Carleton did not address very clearly his party's position on the grape and wine industry. It is an extremely important point to me and it certainly should be to the member for Carleton, recognizing that there could be further aspirations from him in the future. I feel he should address very clearly where his party stands on those areas.

I also found it quite interesting that the member, when he was addressing the environment issues, failed to put forward to the House how his party for several years had legislation on the shelf that collected dust in a rather unique fashion. It was not until the member for St. Catharines (Mr. Bradley) became the Minister of the Environment that anything was done for Ontario in an environmental way.

Mr. McGuinty: I would comment very briefly on the remarks made by my neighbour the member for Carleton with regard to an article in

today's *Globe and Mail*. I commend that to everyone. It was written by Hugh Segal, who is hardly a disinterested observer; he is an adviser to Mr. Mulroney. He writes very well, because I had him in class years ago and he is a friend of mine.

Looking at that article, I think it is typical of many articles written by those who endorse free trade. Their argument always is to the effect that this is an economic matter. The assumption is always that free trade is all of one piece: economic. In fact, the free trade issue is largely a matter of culture; it is all about culture. It is a matter of the heart rather than the head. Love of country is an emotion, and so is greed.

But the questions which have been put to the Canadian people—and we hear from time to time that 49 per cent apparently are in favour—are misleading and the poll results are misleading. The operative word in the question “Are you in favour of free trade?” is “free”—“free” as used in the phrase “free lunch” or “free speech.”

I think the responses clearly could be anticipated. What if we ask the Canadian people questions of the kind they have not yet been asked? “Are you in favour of giving up those things that have developed as reflections of Canadian culture and identity?” These are things that enter the daily lives of most Canadians: health insurance, unemployment benefits, legal subsidies, magazines and periodicals—

The Deputy Speaker: Order. I am sorry; the member's time is up.

Mr. McGuinty: If these questions were put to the Canadian people—

The Deputy Speaker: Order. There are 45 seconds left. Would another member like to speak? The member for Sudbury.

1030

Mr. Campbell: I congratulate the member across the way who is concerned about radon gas, which concern I share. Because of my time limit, I will not go into all the other details, but I wonder if he is aware that past government policy has been to arrange for radon and radon progeny testing in the homes of uranium miners in Elliot Lake, Blind River and Bancroft. If he is aware of that program, perhaps it could be extended to the residents of his area who may also be suffering.

Also, Elliot Lake, Faraday township, Bancroft and Hyndman township are designated uranium mining areas and radon standards are incorporated in the Ontario Building Code. My understanding is that it can be more widely spread, where

this problem exists. The member is quite correct and I congratulate his knowledge of that fact.

The Deputy Speaker: Would the member for Carleton like to respond?

Mr. Sterling: I can hardly not respond. I really shook the trees. I would like to reply as briefly as I can to the members who spoke.

First, to the member for Oxford (Mr. Tatham), with regard to the tobacco industry and the infrastructure of the communities that rely on the tobacco industry, I have suggested several times to the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) that he increase the price of cigarettes by 15 cents per package. That would generate an additional \$100 million to \$120 million in revenues to this government so that it could properly take care of our farmers, enrich the existing joint federal-provincial grant and actually help the infrastructure of the communities to meet the problems with regard to the loss of this industry. We cannot condone tobacco, even though it causes a considerable upset to some communities.

With regard to the funding dispute mechanism, all I can say to the member for Kitchener is that I read the actual agreement, as I said in my speech, as saying it is the decision of the panel. They refer to countervail and antidumping being binding on the parties and their investigating authorities and, therefore, we do have a binding mechanism and Dr. Crispo argues that in his particular matter.

I remind the member for St. Catharines-Brock (Mr. Dietsch) of my interest and the interest in our government. When I was the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development, a minister in the Davis government, I was the fellow who brought in the Niagara Escarpment plan, which was lauded by the environmentalists. We do have a record, even in the member's own area, with regard to our concerns and we did take some action.

I did not know the facts which the member for Sudbury (Mr. Campbell) brought forward to me and I appreciate the knowledge with regard to that. I think it is a larger problem and that experience should be used in other parts of the province.

Mr. Chiarelli: Let me begin by saying it is indeed an honour and a privilege to be able to serve in this House and a special honour and privilege to be able to serve the good people of Ottawa West. I am mindful that this privilege is one that must be earned every day, and it is a responsibility I intend to honour to the fullest of my abilities.

Mr. Speaker, as you may know, new members are keen to observe and learn the ways of the Legislature as quickly as possible. Speaking for myself and, I believe, for many of my colleagues, we have quickly observed that the Speaker and Deputy Speaker chair this assembly not only with good judgement and tact but also with a good cheer that is both pleasant and contagious. We thank you for that introduction.

I also want to say on behalf of myself, and I believe I am speaking for my colleagues, that we appreciate the informative and professional introduction that the Clerk and the officers in his office have provided to us. It has made the transition to this place a lot easier for us.

I note that the member for Carleton (Mr. Sterling) is leaving. Perhaps he will just stay and hear my comment. In terms of learning experiences, I just mentioned that we appreciated the learning experience from the Clerk and his staff. I think the new members here today had a learning experience in terms of how we can best use the time of this House and how best to run it over a two-day period. I appreciate the lesson he has given us in the last couple of days. I thank him very much.

I am here at Queen's Park in the company of seven other good representatives from the Ottawa-Carleton area. I am proud to be among their number. I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the member for Ottawa East (Mr. Grandmatre) on his reappointment to the cabinet and special congratulations to the member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Patten) on his appointment to the cabinet.

I also want to congratulate you, sir, on your appointment as Deputy Speaker, coming partially from the Ottawa-Carleton municipality. It has been many years since representatives of the Ottawa area have been able to take political issues and provincial affairs out from under the shadow of the Peace Tower. I believe the people we have from the Ottawa-Carleton area in this assembly as a result of the recent election, and I include the member for Carleton, are going to do some good for the Ottawa-Carleton area and I am very pleased to be among their number.

Before I comment on a number of very positive initiatives in the speech from the throne and how these will benefit my constituents, I would like to share with my colleagues some thoughts about my riding and some principles I believe in.

First, let me say that the greatest resource, the greatest pride and the greatest strength we have in Ottawa West is our people. The citizens I have

the privilege and honour to serve include the second-highest number of senior citizens per capita of any constituency in Canada. These elderly represent a feisty, active, self-reliant and proud segment of our community. A minority of them, as we know, require the special help afforded by our social assistance infrastructure, yet even these seniors accept their adversity with courage, dignity and understanding. These seniors hold a special place in our hearts and remain one of my riding's most cherished possessions and assets.

Another human resource we are blessed with in Ottawa West is a highly educated and trained community in step with today's and tomorrow's technology, a human resource envied by many a community, if not by many a country, a human resource of which Ottawa and Ontario can rightly be proud.

We are also very fortunate in Ottawa West to have one of the most active community networks in eastern Ontario and perhaps in the province. We are proud of our three community-based newspapers, our numerous local service associations and charitable organizations. We are especially proud of the Pinecrest-Queensway Community Resource Centre, the Olde Forge Community Resource Centre and the Carlington Community Resource Centre. These facilities, which are almost becoming institutions in Ottawa West, are characterized by concern, compassion and constructive caring for large segments of my riding, which includes five major assisted-housing neighbourhoods.

In addition, at a time when our country is living through renewed constitutional growth and new cultural and ethnic diversity, the people of Ottawa West take pride in fully participating in this renewal.

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I mentioned earlier that I would speak of some principles. I believe in them, and I believe many others in this House from all parties believe in them. I also am of the opinion that they are embodied in the throne speech. I believe they are worth repeating, in the words of a well-known social democrat:

"It means we campaign to win on the merits of our causes and to break new frontiers in education, housing, social services, health care and social justice.

"It means we speak for those who work for a living, white-collar and blue-collar, young professionals, men and women in small businesses trying to prove their worth and earn a living.

"It means we speak for minorities who have not yet entered the mainstream.

"And it means we speak for women indignant that we had refused to etch into our governmental commandments a simple rule, 'Thou shalt not sin against equality,' a commandment so obvious it can be stated in two simple words: equality now."

A titre de libéraux, nous croyons qu'une société aussi bénie que la nôtre devrait pouvoir apporter de l'assistance à ceux qui en ont besoin.

I believe first and foremost that the throne speech is based on a sound political philosophy embodied in the principles I just mentioned. Second, the throne speech reflects that Liberals will do what they said they would do. Third, it shows that this government continues to be an open government with progressive and activist policies.

I would like to refer to three of the throne speech initiatives which are of particular importance to me because they are of special significance to my constituents.

First, in building competitive strengths in the area of high technology, the government has put forward proposals for co-operative action leading to the establishment of a network of centres of excellence and the consideration of projects to receive funding from the Premier's technology fund.

We in the Ottawa-Carleton region are very pleased that a centre of excellence has been established at the University of Ottawa and that current high-technology proposals are being considered by the Premier's fund. I am looking forward to some of these being successful and helping the technology industry in the Ottawa-Carleton area.

I am pleased to bring to the attention of my many new colleagues and the new members of this House that the Ottawa-Carleton region remains one of the pre-eminent high-technology locations in North America and will fully participate in the government's initiatives. Our region is most fortunate to be the home for head offices or significant operations of many corporate leaders in the field of information technology.

The second throne speech initiative of special interest to the people of Ottawa West is that in the midst of an ageing population and rapid increases in the cost of health care delivery this government is developing new strategies for healthy living, including expanding the network of support services for seniors and the disabled

and improved access for these groups to transportation.

I am proud to be able to bring to the attention of my colleagues the seniors' activity centre being established in my riding by seniors for seniors. To the best of our knowledge, this will be the first senior drop-in or activity centre established within the premises of a major regional, urban shopping centre, thus providing unique opportunities for the elderly. I believe this centre will become a model for many such centres in the future. I have invited the Minister without Portfolio responsible for senior citizens' affairs (Mrs. Wilson) to come to Ottawa West. I believe she will, and I am certain she will bring back some very good ideas which can be of help to her ministry and other members of this House.

Third, in the area of environmental protection, the people of Ottawa West are pleased that this government is committed to accelerating efforts to clean up the province's beaches.

My colleagues may be interested in knowing that although my riding is an urban riding, the Ottawa River forms the entire northern boundary for a distance of approximately five miles. The waterfront is essentially all open space, publicly owned and fully accessible to the public. In fact, two public beaches, Britannia Beach and Westboro Beach, are within my riding. Unfortunately, excessive pollution counts all too frequently close these beaches.

It is useful at this point to reflect historically on the Ottawa River, one of the great waterways of North America. It was the primary highway for the explorers, voyageurs and fur traders, many of whom camped on its shores in what is now Ottawa West. It is also useful to reflect on the very special day we observed last week on November 11. To the nation builders who risked the unknown to create this country, and to the honourable and courageous men and women who defended its freedom, we owe an obligation to preserve this country and its richness for future generations.

I believe the people of Ottawa West appreciate the environmental protection measures taken by this government and its renewed commitment to clean up our beaches so that future generations may enjoy our national treasures.

I referred to merely three initiatives from the throne speech of special interest to the people of my riding, but I know there are many more. I am honoured to be able to look forward to participating in the legislative process in bringing into reality so many new and positive developments.

In conclusion, I say to my colleagues that I am here to satisfy one priority; that is to serve the people who elected me, as forthrightly and as honestly as I can. I therefore want to share with you a number of specific needs that I believe significant groups within my constituency would like this government to satisfy in the foreseeable future, not because they would be nice to have but rather because they know there is a crying need.

First, in the area of education we require a reorganization of the Ottawa-Carleton school boards. We now have the Ottawa Board of Education, the Ottawa Roman Catholic Separate School Board, the Carleton Board of Education, the Carleton Roman Catholic Separate School Board, and we are in the process of establishing a new francophone board in our region.

The people, the voters of Ottawa West, sent me to Queen's Park with a message which I would like to convey to this government and to the Minister of Education, and that is to streamline our system of education in the Ottawa-Carleton area and make it relevant for the 1990s.

In the second area of education, there are large numbers of thoughtful people in my riding who want this government to start a process of rationalizing the place of alternative schools with the publicly funded system.

In the area of transportation, I am very pleased that the minister has joined us. The people of Ottawa West are extremely happy that this government, in the course of the election and through renewal in the speech from the throne, has announced the start of four-lane Highway 416, but the message my constituents want me to bring to the government and to the minister is that they put as high a priority on the four-lane link from Highway 401 into the Queensway as they do with the link from Century Road into the Queensway. I would urge the government to explore whatever means and ways are possible to look into this, and I am sure we will have many discussions in the future on it. It is a priority of my constituents, and I do want to bring that to your attention.

In the area of housing, first of all, the five neighbourhoods or areas of assisted housing owned by the Ontario Housing Corp. in my riding require immediate and substantive increases in the allocation of capital funds to upgrade and renovate these units. I was proud to be able to canvass virtually every door in these assisted housing neighbourhoods, but I was not proud of the extent to which the Ontario Housing

Corp. has permitted the physical deterioration of this housing stock to take place. I would urge upon this government and the Minister of Housing (Ms. Hošek) to look at ways and means of providing needed capital for this housing stock which is owned and operated by the province.

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Second, again on the question of housing, there is a substantial number of OHC senior citizen high-rise units located in my riding. There is an urgent and pressing need for this government to explore ways and means of providing 24-hour security in these buildings. This action is necessary to enhance the quality of life of our seniors by eliminating fear and providing real and needed protection.

From 1980 to 1985, I had the honour and privilege of serving on the Ottawa-Carleton Regional Housing Authority, and I chaired the security committee at that time. I made a promise to myself and to those seniors I was dealing with at that time that if I was ever in a position to have any influence on this particular question, I would do whatever I could. I do believe it is a real priority for seniors who live in high-rises, and I do believe the ministry should look at ways and means of providing this type of security for our seniors.

In the area of health care, since many people in Ontario cannot afford needed psychological services, I would urge this government to explore ways and means of creating several pilot projects to provide Ontario health insurance plan coverage for the services of psychologists in defined circumstances.

Also in the area of health care, my constituents and the people of Ottawa appreciate the efforts the government and the Ministry of Health have made in the last two years. They had a lot of making up to do, but my constituents urge this government to take whatever additional steps are necessary in the allocation of its capital transfer payments to place a higher priority on the provision of chronic care and psychiatric beds in the Ottawa region.

Ottawa West is a diverse riding. From Island Park Drive to Penny Drive, from McKellar Heights to Michele Heights, it is a great place to live. C'est un bon endroit pour élever nos familles. But it has some needs that have been begging for solutions. I am satisfied that the actions of this government over the past two years and the initiatives that have been undertaken in the speech from the throne will improve the quality of life of all the constituents of Ottawa West.

I look forward to continuing to work on their behalf so that further benefits may be realized.

Mr. Philip: The member caught my interest by his comments on the Ottawa Housing Authority. Since he was on the board of that housing authority, I would like to ask his position on some crucial issues which the tenants in his riding have brought to the attention of members of this House over the years.

The first one he mentions is the security system. I am wondering if the member agrees with the position taken over the years by tenants living in those housing projects that they should have, or be able to set up, a nonprofit security company and have some supervision and direct input into the security in their own buildings.

Second, I wonder if he has been concerned in the past at the allegations that the tenant representative has in the past been rejected because of her political affiliations to one party, namely, the New Democratic Party. What kinds of steps is the member prepared to take to ensure that tenants are represented on the housing authority board in a nonpartisan way and that the tenants can decide who represents their interests, not the Minister of Housing, who may reject them because they belong to the wrong political party?

Third, in his riding, and indeed in his city, he will be aware that there are many poor people and single people who do not qualify for rent-geared-to-income housing because they do not fit the criteria of either being permanently disabled physically or psychologically, or indeed they do not fit the criteria of being a senior. I am wondering what his position is regarding acceptance into the housing authority for geared-to-income housing in this province of people who simply qualify not because they are members of a family or because of their marital status, their age or a disability, but simply because they happen to be poor. I wonder if the member would answer those three questions on the housing issues.

Mr. Chiarelli: First of all, I want to say that I appreciate, as I think the residents and constituents of Ottawa West appreciate, the many excellent thrusts that have been taken by this government over the last two years. I think a lot of good things have been done in the housing area by the previous administration. That is not to say that improvements cannot be made.

In terms of improvements, I would support the idea of the tenants getting involved in providing their own security. I think that as much involvement as we can create within these communities will be an asset. I have found that in

my riding the strongest and most successful communities in assisted-housing areas are those where there has been strong community involvement by the people in the communities. I think the nonprofit security system, if it can be properly implemented, could have much merit.

With respect to tenants' representatives in the Ottawa area, I would say from my experience of five years in the Ottawa Housing Authority and subsequently the Ottawa-Carleton Regional Housing Authority that the tenants have had tremendous input into what was happening. I mentioned the security committee, on which I sat. It was very active; there were many tenants who participated, and some of the tenants' leaders participated fully and appreciated the participation.

With respect to the single, independent poor person who requires housing, I agree with the member opposite. I think our Ministry of Housing should try to create circumstances where this can happen and satisfy this particular need.

Mr. Morin-Strom: First, I would like to congratulate you, Deputy Speaker, on your election to office and wish you well in the term we are just starting at this point. I am sure it is going to be an interesting session, and I hope we can accomplish a lot as we represent the people of this province.

I would also like to welcome all the members who have returned to the Legislature and the many new members we see with us here today. I think it is going to be a session in which we can make a very valuable contribution to our province, and I look forward to working with all the members in the House in attempting to do that.

I would also like to thank the people of Sault Ste. Marie for the faith and trust they have placed in me in giving me the opportunity to represent them for a second term. I very much appreciated the honour of representing them since 1985, and I hope we can continue to work together and to work hard to represent the interests of my constituency as we collectively try to represent the issues and concerns of all the people of Ontario.

In Sault Ste. Marie we have been able to accomplish some good things in the past two years. The Sault faced some very difficult times during my first term in office. A major decision by the major employer in Sault Ste. Marie, Algoma Steel Corp., during the middle of that term in 1986, was an announcement of its plans to lay off 1,500 employees, downsize its

operations, a decision that would have had a severe impact on our community.

The provincial government responded to that situation. We certainly addressed it as a very important issue facing our community. We quickly held an emergency debate on the issue after the announcement by the corporation. We then insisted on hearings that were held by the standing committee on resources development, and members from all three parties participated, coming up to Sault Ste. Marie and to the community of Wawa, which was also threatened, and put together a proposal for an action plan from the province to assist our community.

Within two to three months of the announcement by the corporation—I think it was within two months—that proposal was put forward with all-party support of the committee. Shortly following that, the Premier (Mr. Peterson) made a number of important announcements of economic stimulus for Sault Ste. Marie, which included the start of a relocation program of government positions into northern Ontario, an initiative which our community welcomed.

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While the construction is just about to get under way on a major new office facility, we look forward to the jobs that are coming in the Ontario Lottery Corp. and particularly in the forestry section. Basically, the whole forestry section of the Ministry of Natural Resources is being relocated at Sault Ste. Marie, something that makes important sense in terms of putting control of a very important industry and resource primarily in the northern part of our province in the hands of the people who live in the north.

While we have accomplished good things and made an important contribution to our community over the last several years, there is still much to be done for Sault Ste. Marie. We have to continue the efforts in other areas of endeavour. We cannot live solely on government jobs. The commitment to bring some 350 government jobs comes nowhere near to replacing the kinds of jobs we have lost in our most important industry.

During the recession in the early 1980s, Sault Ste. Marie lost nearly 4,000 jobs in one company alone, Algoma Steel Corp. The company has had some success in the last year with a pickup in the economy. Its part of the business is servicing primarily the oil and gas industry and heavy construction, both of which are in much better shape this year than they were in 1986. The company's employment levels have improved since the time of the company's announcement in mid-1986. Rather than the loss of 1,500 jobs, we

have probably gained 500 jobs or so at the company. So we have been fortunate in that respect.

We have to renew our efforts to bring in other industry to diversify our economy. That is really the source of wealth in northern Ontario. It is the industry we have there. It is what we do with the resources we have. We have tremendous physical resources and we have tremendous people resources. We have the opportunity to use those, but to do that, we not only have to ship them out in bulk, in massive quantities, as we often do and have done over the history of the north, but we also have to renew our efforts to put more processing of our resources into northern Ontario. We have to put more value-added into those resources, producing finished products whenever we can develop appropriate industries.

I hope this government will look at northern development in terms of stimulating the industrial sector which will go along with the resource sector we have in the north. We have the opportunity to do that. We need upfront assistance, though, from the government, particularly in areas like research and development and in educational facilities. I am a firm believer that modern competitive industries come from having the technology and the knowledge that is needed to be in the forefront. To do that, we need to have that investment, that knowledge base built up where the resource sector is, in northern Ontario. We have to have the people with the ideas and the knowhow to be able to develop those industries.

We have not been well served by the province's technology fund. Its commitment to spend \$1 billion over the next 10 years has been primarily a commitment to southern Ontario, to high-tech industry, not a commitment to support the very important resource sector and the associated manufacturing that should be going with that sector. We have never had a commitment from this province to a fair share of university funding in northern Ontario. I hope the new member for Fort William (Mrs. McLeod), the new Minister of Colleges and Universities, will look very closely at what percentage of the university and college budget is going to northern Ontario and will reflect on the fact that we have never had a major university in northern Ontario.

The levels of funding for even our two larger universities, Lakehead and Laurentian, are nowhere approaching any of eight or nine major schools in southern Ontario. You could take the total university funding for all the institutions in northern Ontario and they would not be close to any single major institutions in the south. Those

northern schools, Laurentian and Lakehead, get an annual funding base of somewhere between \$20 million and \$30 million a year. Much smaller schools like Algoma College in Sault Ste. Marie or Nipissing in North Bay have budgets under \$3 million a year, a minuscule fraction.

Meanwhile, major institutions like Queen's are in the order of \$90 million to \$100 million in funding. The University of Waterloo is something like \$120 million in funding. The amounts going to those institutions are what make them major universities, able to offer graduate programs competitive on the world scene. The schools in northern Ontario just do not have the resources to be able to do that and that is an area I hope this government will start to address in this term of office.

There is no substitute for an industrial strategy in northern Ontario and certainly free trade is not a substitute for that. I had the opportunity last month, in late October, to visit Sweden and Norway. I was there for two weeks and had the opportunity to meet with a number of government representatives, primarily in Stockholm and Oslo but also in some other communities.

The difference in attitude towards the northern portions of their countries compared to our attitude towards northern Ontario is quite remarkable. They really do work in a co-operative fashion and give a high priority to the concerns and interests of working people in those countries. They are ensuring that they are in the forefront in terms of competitiveness in world markets in the fields of manufacturing and engineering.

Sweden is a country very similar in size to Ontario, is similar geographically, is similar in terms of resource base and is very close in terms of population as well, but it has done much more in terms of maintaining a healthy economy in its northern areas and in developing a high-tech industrial base, strong universities and new technologies that are assisting it to provide much higher levels of employment than we do in Ontario.

While Ontario is having good times overall with an unemployment rate right now of, I understand, under six per cent, in northern Ontario the rate is approximately double that. We still have far too many unemployed in the north. It was rather remarkable to see the comparison in those countries that have had social democratic governments for such a long time. In the month of September, Sweden had an unemployment rate of 1.9 per cent. The country of Norway has an unemployment rate right now of approximate-

ly 1.4 per cent. These countries have always made it a high priority to maintain full employment policies. They have put a priority on putting people to work.

They have looked at restructuring industry. They have been more successful and more extensive in terms of restructuring industry. The workers are willing to do that as well because they know jobs are available. They are constantly changing from outmoded, uncompetitive industries to the forefront of new technology where they know they can sell their products and compete on a world scale.

They have ensured that people have the retraining programs that are necessary so that rather than going on unemployment, having to go on welfare and facing poverty when they lose their jobs, as they do in many communities here in Ontario, people are immediately given an opportunity for retraining programs. With the kinds of job demands in those countries, the people know that if they go through a retraining program, at which they are maintained at a very healthy level of income, they then have the opportunity to move into more relevant, longer-term jobs that have a real future for them.

In Norway today, there are more than twice as many job vacancies as there are unemployed in the country, so in fact the kind of problem it is facing is not a lack of jobs, not having enough jobs; it is not a factor of having too many unemployed; it is a factor of having too many job vacancies and not having enough people to fill them. So they have the restructuring plans and the retraining programs to try to reorient people and put them into where they are needed.

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During this past election campaign, in our community there were many important issues addressed. One of the most important that I would like to address now is the issue of transportation. I am very pleased to have been appointed the critic for northern transportation for our party. I look forward to dealing with the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Fulton) and with the Minister of Northern Development (Mr. Fontaine) to try to address some of the important transportation issues facing northern Ontario.

I think the most important is the major upgrading and improvements that are needed to our Trans-Canada Highway. It is essential that this highway be viewed as the connecting link that links all of Canada together. We have to have a highway which is modern, which can handle the traffic and which can move goods and people efficiently across northern Ontario connecting

with the major centres in southern Ontario, connecting with the western provinces, connecting with the Maritimes and Quebec and connecting with the United States.

The highway today is not a modern Trans-Canada Highway. It is a highway that was built in the late 1950s and it looks like a highway that was built in the late 1950s. It is not up to the kinds of standards that one would expect in a province with the wealth of Ontario.

A major program to four-lane the Trans-Canada Highway has to be committed to by this government. We need it in order to provide economic stimulus for northern Ontario, to provide jobs for northern Ontario in the short term and to provide some of the infrastructure that will enable us to get our goods to markets in a competitive, cost-effective manner.

We also need it for the very important issue of health and safety. The accidents and fatalities on this highway are at much too high a level. We can save lives if we improve Highway 17 and see that we have a proper highway across our northern province.

The minister appears to have been stalling on this issue. He says that the cost is some \$2.7 billion. Now, all that was committed in the last budget in new funding for highways in northern Ontario was less than one per cent of that, some \$26 million. He may talk about the regular budget that is there, but that regular budget is what is needed just to maintain the highways in the condition they are in. We need a major new commitment to get a major program going on that highway. At the rate of funding that was committed to in that last budget, it would take over 100 years to four-lane the highway across northern Ontario, a totally ridiculous commitment from this province to the north.

It is up to both ministers, the Minister of Northern Development and the Minister of Transportation, to go back and look at what the needs are and to look at the opportunity that is in front of Ontario for a major commitment on this highway. I understand that just yesterday the Ontario Chamber of Commerce endorsed our position, the position of many communities in northern Ontario, that within a 10-year time frame we should have the Trans-Canada Highway four-laned completely across this province from the Manitoba border to the Quebec border. I hope the province will now respond to that, and I am very pleased to hear that the chamber of commerce is on the same side as the New Democratic Party, for a change, on an issue. We will have to see whether we can convince the

Liberal Party to get on side with that issue as well.

Relating to this, I have already presented a resolution on this issue to this House—it will be in Orders and Notices today—asking, “That, in the opinion of this House, recognizing the importance of the Trans-Canada Highway to our nation and to our province, the government of Ontario should upgrade the Trans-Canada Highway to a modern four-lane system through northern Ontario to the Manitoba border and that the government should immediately commence design and schedule construction to ensure completion across northern Ontario by 1997.”

I have been quite fortunate in the draw for private members’ business, and I am on the first week, next week, with the resolution for private members’ business. It may well be that resolution. Which resolution it is has not been fully decided at this point, but I am throwing that forward as one possible resolution. We would love to have the commitment of all the parties of this province to a reasonable, phased-in approach, a 10-year program to ensure that the Trans-Canada Highway is four lanes right across northern Ontario.

I would like to address just briefly another area of transportation. Transportation links are so important to northern Ontario because of the vast geography that we have in the north and the difficulties we have in communications and in touching the people where the bigger population bases are. The area of air transportation is a vital area and the Ontario government has been spending some time studying the issue of norOntair and whether it should potentially shut down norOntair or divest norOntair of a good part of its business in connecting many of the smaller communities in northern Ontario.

I would just like to reiterate my position that it is essential that connections between the northern communities be maintained and improved. The people of the north have to have links, not only links from Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury and Thunder Bay, from the major five or six centres down to Toronto, but also links with the smaller communities in the north. norOntair provides a very valuable service in linking up the smaller communities with populations of 1,000 to 5,000 with those bigger cities with populations of 50,000 to 100,000 or so.

Those people, particularly in winter months, do not have those connections being provided by the private carriers. Even if norOntair is to give away only its profitable routes, how on earth would that benefit the province, when the

province would then have to put even more into subsidizing the unprofitable routes? The profitable routes would be those connections with the bigger centres, and norOntair would just be left with routes between the very smallest centres. norOntair has a comprehensive system of air links now, and it is essential that we maintain and improve those air links.

Another area of importance in transportation—and certainly transportation is a big part of cost in northern Ontario—a big time commitment from people in terms of getting from place to place is their time on highways. The issue I want to bring up is the issue of gasoline prices. This became a big issue several years ago and continues to be a very serious irritation to the people of northern Ontario. There is an injustice here when we who have more dependence on transportation and our highways and vehicles for getting around because of the geography have also to pay a penalty in terms of much higher gasoline prices than there are in southern Ontario.

The difference is not solely the cost of getting the gasoline to the north. A lot of the problem is a lack of competitive environment, a lack of fair pricing by the gasoline stations. The independent players have been pushed out of the marketplace. In Sault Ste. Marie, there are no independents left that can price on their own. That happened as of three years ago, and there has been no price competition since that point. There is no such thing as a gasoline price war in Sault Ste. Marie. We have never seen it.

The price structure remains firmly in place. At one point it stayed in place for more than two years with no change at any gas station in the whole city by even a fraction of a cent. Even then, the price structures as they move are being dictated by one of the majors, whether it is Petro-Canada or Imperial Oil, I do not know, but when they move their price up by two cents — they did this about a year ago when the federal government made an increase to gasoline taxes—one of those stations increased by two cents and they all did. The dealers say, "We do not set the prices, the prices are told to us by our agents in Toronto."

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The prices are being set by the major oil companies in Toronto and dictated to the stations in northern Ontario. There is no competition there, and if there is no competition, that calls for government intervention. Government has to ensure that the prices then, if they are not being dictated by a market price, are being dictated in a fair and equitable manner.

That has not been happening. We are paying a penalty. The government's own studies show that every driver in northern Ontario is paying a penalty of well over \$100 per driver in additional costs for gasoline compared to drivers in southern Ontario, an injustice and irritation that will continue in northern Ontario until this government acts on this important issue.

Another important injustice, not just for northern Ontario but an injustice felt by people across this province, was the important issue—it continues to be an important issue—of the insurer ripoff that drivers are facing across this province.

We have an unjust system. The insurance companies recorded record profits of over \$1 billion in the last year. At the same time, the rates have been escalating way out of line with what inflation rates have been doing. The cost differences for insurance between Ontario and the western provinces is astronomical. Anyone you talk to who has lived out west or has moved out west will tell you the difference between the system out there and here. We have to look seriously at moving towards the kind of government-run, driver co-operative type of insurance system that is in place in the western provinces.

It is time for the government to act on this issue, and I am sure this will continue to be a major issue in the early stages of this term of office.

I commend my fellow member for Welland-Thorold (Mr. Swart), who has made this such an important issue for the people of Ontario, who has spoken so many times on it, and I know that we will continue to be working together to demand action from this government. We certainly need more than the bills it presented last spring, when the government committed to what it called the cap, a freeze and a rollback on insurance prices. In fact, in the bills that were presented, it was a cap that was not a cap, it was a freeze that was not a freeze and it was a rollback that was not a rollback. There was absolutely nothing achieved from those bills, and we need to have something a lot stronger to protect the interests of the drivers of this province.

Finally, in terms of major issues, I want to address the number one issue in the province today, the issue of free trade. This has been the major economic issue and now the major political issue, the major social issue in our country.

In the election campaign it was a very big issue. The people of the province had the

opportunity to decide what they wanted to do. The Premier asked for a mandate on this issue. The Premier has a mandate, and the Premier is going to have to act on this issue.

The only party advocating free trade in the campaign, the Conservative Party, the third party now, has been decimated. It lost more than two thirds of its seats, and that position has been resoundingly rejected by the people of this province.

We in the New Democratic Party have consistently maintained a very strong position in opposition to the Mulroney initiative. We are going to continue to call upon this government to act on its commitment to stop the agreement. The conditions which the Premier placed on such an agreement have not been met. The Liberal government agrees that they have not been met. It is up to the Premier now to act on his commitment to the people of this province.

Mr. Fleet: How do you propose they be stopped?

Mr. Morin-Strom: I am going to get to that.

This agreement is a serious threat to Canada's future. It is clear from the political surveys that are being done that people are confused. We have to explain the issue in a clearer manner. I look forward to seeing the final text of this agreement so people can see the final language and see that this agreement does nothing for the people of Canada.

We have to have an open debate on the future of our country, and that is what the free trade issue gets at. Ultimately, it may well have to be decided in the next federal election, and that election may well be the election to put a final stop to the nonsense the Prime Minister is trying to impose on Canada.

In the agreement there is no indication that there are any winners. Even the winners do not know what they are getting out of the agreement. One of the winners was supposedly the steel industry, which has a very important component in my own community, Sault Ste. Marie, with Canada's third-largest steel mill. The industry continues to be an advocate of the agreement but, when you talk to them, all they say is that it maintains the status quo. All the free trade advocates used to complain because the opponents were trying to maintain the status quo, and now the supposed winners are saying: "We are happy because we have been able to maintain the status quo in our industry. We feel we can maintain the access we have had."

But what does that access include in terms of steel? The agreement does not provide any

protection against the imposition of future countervailing duties; it does not provide any protection against antidumping measures; it does not stop the current duty that was imposed on specialty steels; and it does nothing about, even most flagrantly, the voluntary restraint quotas the Canadian steel industry is currently operating on, its agreement to hold its shipments to the United States to 3.5 per cent. How can we call it a free trade agreement when the steel industry is going to have to maintain its level of shipments at 3.5 per cent of a declining market?

The steel market in the US has been declining for the last 20 years, not just in terms of what the US steel companies are selling; the total volume of steel sold in the United States economy has been on a downward trend for the past two decades. So we are stuck and we continue to be stuck with what the steel industry had before. It was supposed to be a winner in the agreement, and it has gained absolutely nothing.

The steel industry has made no commitments to new investment, no commitments to new jobs as a result of that agreement. The agreement in fact has sacrificed a lot of other industries, a lot of other players in our economy, in order to maintain the status quo for an industry like the steel industry.

This morning we met with representatives of the forest products industry. We were told, "Oh, yes, we are generally in favour of the agreement," but when you talk to them individually today, they say, "Well, we have some real reservations about what happened." The industry as a whole said the reason it is in favour of the agreement is that, again, it maintains the status quo. It feels it will not be threatened any further than it has already been threatened.

But the arbitrary, unjustified 15 per cent duty on softwood lumber has not been rolled back. All the other duties are going to be rolled back in terms of the free trade agreement over a 10-year period, but that is an exception, so there is going to be no free trade in softwood lumber. Naturally they, particularly the lumber producers, are very disappointed that they have not gained; they have maintained the status quo.

Again, one of our strong competitive export industries in the resource sector has gained nothing, it has maintained the status quo. Meanwhile, so many other industries are going to be threatened by this agreement, let alone the threat to political sovereignty and our culture, potentially our social institutions, our regional development programs and so on.

We know the resource sector will always be in demand by US industry. There could be no doubt that the US will never shut off its imports of our resource products. It needs them. The resource sector is not the issue in free trade or trade discussions with the United States. There are irritants that arise from time to time in that sector, sure, but there is absolutely zero risk that the US will shut out the resources of Canada from coming into the US. In fact, we have just seen in the agreement that they want to go the other way. The energy agreement gives them full access to all our energy resources. We, the Canadian people, have given to Americans a right to our energy resources that is equal to the right we give to Canadians.

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We have just sold our whole energy heritage to the United States. The Americans want our resources. They are not going to shut them off. Why the people of the resource sector, the people of northern Ontario, would feel threatened by trade discussions when it comes to resources, I cannot understand. We are the ones who have the trump card in any trade discussions when it comes to resources. We have the resources; they want the resources. How can we possibly ever lose if we have someone reasonable doing the negotiation when it comes to deals on resources?

This agreement does not provide a dispute settlement mechanism. It guts the auto pact. It provides threats to certain areas of our agricultural industries. We have given away our energy resources, and our independence is threatened. It provides nothing for our country. It provides nothing for this province. It provides nothing for my community.

In our area, the lumber industry is still threatened. It is still affected by the 15 per cent export duty. There are no new jobs or investments coming into the steel company in Sault Ste. Marie. Northern Breweries is threatened by free trade. If people want to see what benefits might come from an economic policy based solely on free trade in my community, the best evidence is to look right across the border; look at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, compared to Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. If the solution is free, unfettered access with no barriers whatsoever between the two countries, look at what the Sault, Michigan, has compared to what the Sault, Ontario, has.

The Sault, Michigan, has free trade with the US. It has had free trade with the US for 150 years because it is in the US, but it is an economy that is absolutely decrepit. The community has

shrunk in size. Back in the 1930s, the Sault, Ontario, and the Sault, Michigan, were roughly the same size, communities of 30,000 to 40,000 with major industries on both sides of the border. The industries in the Sault, Ontario, have continued to grow while the industries in the Sault, Michigan, have all shut down. They have no industry left. All they have is one university in that community and a very desperate tourism industry. Certainly tourism is not the future for northern Ontario; tourism is part of what we need in northern Ontario. We need industry and we need to do everything possible to get all the jobs we can get out of our resources.

The Sault, Michigan, has had free trade and has not done anything in terms of its economy as a hinterland of the United States. If we end up applying the same rules to Canada that the United States applies to its hinterlands, its resource areas, we are going to be in desperate shape right across our country. If one compares comparable areas outside of the big population mainstreams—Manitoba with North Dakota, Alberta with Montana or Wyoming, or British Columbia with the state of Washington—one would come to the conclusion that right across the country Canada has always been fairer in protecting the areas that do not have the big population bases. We have a history of trying to develop and encourage reasonable levels of economy, good levels of living standards in those areas. The United States is a much more unfettered market system and it lets the areas away from the big population bases suffer the consequences.

We have to have the opportunity for regional development programs in our country, and that is one of the biggest threats we are faced with in this agreement. The agreement does not provide any guarantees that we can continue our regional development programs. It will allow an arbitration board to make the decision as to whether regional development programs are, in fact, subsidies. We cannot risk that; we cannot let the Americans have a say on whether or not we are going to continue regional development programs in our country. We have made a priority of giving a better level of economy, a better standard of living to the areas of our country away from the big population centres, and we have to have the right to continue to do so.

The Premier made a commitment to the people of the province during the election campaign that there can be no deal if regional development programs are threatened. He said there can be no deal if agricultural safeguards are not maintained, if our cultural industries are put at risk or

if we lose the right to choose among foreign investments. He said there can be no deal if we do not have a binding dispute settlement mechanism, and there can be no deal if the auto pact is gutted. The Premier said, "That is my bottom line."

His first priority has to be to see that this government lives up to that commitment. We intend to see that it does. I am presenting another resolution that may well be the one that will be debated next Thursday on this issue.

I would like to review this resolution, because it is of such a critical nature to our province. I hope we get the endorsement of all three parties for this when it comes before the Legislature for debate:

"This Legislature, deploring the trade agreement negotiated between the government of Canada and the government of the United States as a sellout of Canada's sovereignty and independence and a threat to thousands of Canadian jobs, resolves;

"First, that no part of the agreement falling within provincial legislation will be approved or legislated or ordered by this Legislature or the government of Ontario;

"Second, that the government or Legislature of Ontario will pass no laws or orders in council to comply with the agreement if the agreement is formally signed by the two federal governments and approved by the respective national legislative bodies;

"Third, that the government and Legislature of Ontario will pursue every constitutional, legal and political channel to express its opposition to this free trade agreement."

I would like to present this resolution, get it on Orders and Notices. I look forward to debating it and getting the support of the legislators of this province to ensure that we do protect our interests here in Ontario and protect the people of our country. I believe in Canada. We have a great country. Let us keep it that way.

Mr. Pollock: I want to comment briefly on one particular point. I had the opportunity on Saturday of attending a testimonial dinner for a highly respected former member of the House, Elie Martel. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome his daughter, Shelley Martel, to this assembly and to say how much I enjoyed attending that testimonial dinner.

The one thing I really wanted to point out is that from where I live, I had to leave home reasonably early in the morning. I stopped in my riding to fill up with gas before I drove on up to Sudbury, and I had to leave early the next

morning from Sudbury to get back to a Santa Claus parade in Lakefield. I filled my car up in Sudbury that night. I had to pay one cent more for gas in my riding than I had to pay in Sudbury.

It discounts, to a point, that gas is always higher in northern Ontario. Maybe it is over a period of a year or quite a few years, I do not know, but it certainly was not last Saturday. I wanted to put that particular point on the record.

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Mr. McClelland: I want to commend the member for Hamilton Mountain on his very thorough canvassing of the speech on some of the issues. He quite clearly identified as the major issue of the day the issue of free trade. I think the member for High Park-Swansea (Mr. Fleet) quite rightly asks the question, what would he do about it? I find it very interesting that his leader repeatedly in the House, almost on a daily basis, will ask the Premier of the government what we plan to do on this issue. Then the member in his speech, suggests the very things that are indeed in his resolution, suggested things that this government is in fact doing.

This government has made a commitment in the throne speech itself to bring the issue for resolution and full debate in the House in reference to the standing committee on finance and economic affairs. I can only assume, in as much as the honourable member effectively endorses what our government is doing, that he is quite satisfied with the position we are taking. I suggest that he pass on to his leader the very things that he would suggest are the things that we have been doing and will continue to do.

I am delighted that he is effectively endorsing the position of this government in the way we are addressing the issue of free trade with public debate, education and full debate within this House and in committee of this House, and I thank him for that.

Mr. Pouliot: I had no intention of getting up, but in this short time maybe it is quite apropos that I say a few words on behalf of the largest riding in Ontario, extending to the shores of Port Severn. I am referring to 114,000 square miles.

I want to commend my friend whose point regarding gasoline prices was perhaps, and I am sure it was, well researched by the driver or other occupant in that car on that evening of Saturday last. With respect, however, you were in the near north. As you go to the true north in Ontario, extending again— and I am repeating myself—to the shores of Hudson Bay, the parallel is that the prices themselves keep escalating to the tune, and I am not mistaken, of \$4.50 and \$5 on the

other side of Ontario, conditions that rival the Third World.

My good friend from Sault Ste. Marie—and you do not have to emanate with a PhD from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology necessarily, although he does and he is to be commended—he knows about free trade. His words border on gospel.

One of the problems we have is that the government does not come across. It is holding hands. It has not been a secret that in the political arena when we talk about philosophy, we never in the same breath talk about Liberal parties. They are literally the scavengers of political marketplaces, federally or provincially, whatever it takes. They call it flexibility. Under that sort of terminology they commit terrible sins. It is time to come clean on the issue of free trade. What is the government's stand? Tell us. With all the sincerity at its command that any motion that comes under provincial jurisdiction it will not acquiesce and it will defeat—

The Deputy Speaker: The member's time is up.

Mr. Morin-Strom: I thank the members who did respond to my comments. I did enjoy the event with the member for Hastings-Peterborough (Mr. Pollock) and certainly congratulate Elie for his many years of service here to the Legislature. He has done our province a great service and I look forward to working with his daughter, who I am sure will make a valuable contribution to our caucus and to the people of the province for years to come.

The member for Hastings-Peterborough talks about the problems of gasoline prices in rural parts of southern Ontario and certainly they do face problems compared to the Golden Horseshoe prices, but Sudbury is in the near north and as the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Pouliot) points out, the prices escalate quite a bit when you head north of Sudbury and even as far west from Sudbury as Sault Ste. Marie.

The member for Brampton North (Mr. McClelland) made some good points in terms of the rhetoric that is being put forward by the Liberal government and I can agree with much of the rhetoric that we have heard from the Premier on the issue of free trade. What we have not seen is action from the Premier on the issue of free trade. That is what we are demanding from this government, some action, some steps that will ensure that the province is using and protecting its jurisdiction, that it will use those powers to ensure the interests of this province are maintained for years to come. I congratulate the

member for Lake Nipigon on his re-election, a tremendous victory in the largest riding in the province, and I look forward to fighting these issues of concern to northern Ontario for many years to come.

Mr. McClelland: On a point of explanation, Mr. Speaker: I just want to extend my apologies to the member for Sault Ste. Marie. In my enthusiasm and haste, I referred to him as the member for Hamilton Mountain. I recognize that there may be many things in common with those two ridings but I do apologize and hope the honourable member will accept my apology for that mistake.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you for the point of explanation. Do other members wish to participate in the debate?

Mr. J. M. Johnson: I would like to start speaking now if they are through.

First of all, Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate you on your appointment as Deputy Speaker and also as Chairman of the committees of the whole House. I know you will serve this Legislature well. You are a very fair and honest man and you will be an excellent asset to our assembly.

I would also like to congratulate the old members—old in terms of length of service, not age—for their re-election and the new members on their election and I wish them well in the difficult days ahead. I would also like to take the opportunity to thank the good people of Wellington for re-electing me and I will try to serve them to the best of my ability once again.

I think it is appropriate now to congratulate the member for Kingston and The Islands (Mr. Keyes) on his victory at the Grey international plowing event. I know he spent many months preparing for his one run down and back and did an excellent job. So far he says he has not received his trophy and I hope the member for Grey (Mr. Lipsett) will give it to him shortly. He certainly deserves it.

Speaking of agriculture, I would like to bring to the attention of this House my concern about the lack of initiative in the agriculture sector contained in the throne speech. I would like to quote the one paragraph that does appear. It says, "In the midst of sustained global pressures affecting the agriculture sector, we must maintain a commitment to develop innovative approaches to assisting Ontario farmers."

There is no question that our farmers are under global pressure and that the government must continue to assist them so they will be able to survive, but surely the government must have

some plans and programs in place to provide that assistance and I encourage the government to present it as soon as possible before it is too late.

On educational reforms mentioned in the throne speech, I certainly support the concept that we should have provincial standards at the elementary level and reduction of class size in grades 1 and 2. They are worthy goals and I do support that initiative, but I would also like to point out to the House that there is a bit of a problem: the Minister of Education (Mr. Ward) does not provide sufficient classrooms.

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It would seem to me to make more sense that before you divide classes and create more of a problem, you build the classrooms that are necessary.

The chairman of the Wellington County Board of Education, Dr. William Lawless, expressed his dismay this past year when Wellington county did not receive any capital funding whatsoever, not a penny. Wellington's needs are as great as those of many, and they certainly need some capital dollars. This year alone they have \$12,811,000 just to upgrade their facilities to meet this year's need. Their total five-year projection is \$53.5 million. Surely Wellington is entitled to its fair share, and that would be \$10 million this year.

The one problem we have in many parts of Wellington is the fact that there are, as I mentioned earlier, too many portables. It is my understanding that in this province there are 154,000 students housed in portables. Surely before we split class sizes, even in elementary levels, we should provide decent accommodations for our young people.

Where in the throne speech is the Liberal government's commitment to increase the government share of the municipal school tax burden to 60 per cent, as promised in the last two elections?

I would like to turn to the section in the throne speech dealing with health for seniors and the disabled, the section entitled, "Greater Opportunity for Independent Healthy Living." Just to show how fair and impartial I am, I want members to know that I very strongly support this initiative. I support the need for more community-oriented health care systems, and that many of our seniors and disabled require special services that will allow them to reach their full potential and contribute as much as possible according to their ability.

But there is a problem. Reference has been made in this House from time to time that a

certain government agency is like a swamp. I would like to compare the problems I have referred to as a jungle: a jungle that is overgrown with a maze of bureaucratic red tape that the average person cannot penetrate and, in frustration, gives up and therefore is denied the programs he should be entitled to.

I make reference to a problem I have had in my riding where an older man went into the hospital and had both legs amputated because he was a diabetic. His wife tried to provide some services in her home so that when he returned he would have the advantage of a ramp and certain facilities that were needed. She tried to complete the application forms. She had the hospitalization, the amputation and all the problems relating to her husband's illness, and at the same time she was obligated to fill out the forms. The inevitable happened. She did not fill them out in time, so she was denied assistance for providing the services her husband needed. She went ahead without approval, so then she lost her right.

I have mentioned this to the Minister without Portfolio responsible for disabled persons (Mr. Mancini), and I will send over some material on it later. What I would propose is that there be a provincial co-ordinating agency so that the services of the seniors and the disabled are all tied together, one ministry that could oversee all the programs so that an individual who has no idea how to break through the bureaucratic red tape of this jungle I have referred to can simply make one phone call and be given all the information necessary for whatever service, whether it comes under the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Community and Social Services or the Ministry of Revenue. It does not make sense to have so many ministers responsible for individual programs, because an average person cannot understand them, and by not providing that information we deny him the opportunity to participate.

I would like to turn now to the environment. The throne speech says, "We will continue to take a strong and forceful approach to protecting our lands, lakes, rivers, beaches and air." I can certainly support that excellent statement, and every sensible person in the province would support it.

So what does the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley) do to protect our lakes, rivers and beaches? By not supporting our municipal councils and upgrading and rebuilding their sewage systems, the minister is indeed contributing to this very problem of pollution of our lakes, rivers and beaches.

I would just like to highlight the point I am making by reading an excerpt from a letter from the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority pertaining to one of my small villages. The letter is addressed to the Ministry of the Environment. It is pertaining to the village of Clifford's proposed sewage system. The letter reads:

"It is understood that the village of Clifford is pursuing with your ministry the provision of a sanitary sewage system to serve the residents of that municipality. Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority is an agency with a vested interest in water quality within the Saugeen watershed and wholeheartedly supports this initiative. This agency feels that the foresight of the village combined with an expressed concern for water quality should be rewarded with their application receiving every consideration for funding."

They urge the minister to get on with the job.

The minister, or certainly the government in the throne speech, promises to take a strong and forceful approach to protect our lakes, rivers and beaches. Then why not do so by helping the village of Clifford, for example? This is only one example in Wellington. There are several municipalities that require provincial assistance; Harriston, Fergus, Arthur, Mount Forest and Elora are just a few.

In the town of Harriston, they have had well over 50 breaks in their water system. If a fire were to occur, how would they be able to put it out if their water lines were broken? Surely there is a responsibility for the ministry to assist these small towns and villages. They are willing to pay their fair share, but the government has to be willing to pay its share as well.

Another extremely important matter in the environmental field pertains to the waste problem that we have in many parts of the province. I

think a solution to the problems of finding landfill sites and glorified dumps is something that most of the members of this assembly will have problems with in their ridings, if not today certainly in the very near future.

I want to quote from Farm and Country, September 15, 1987. It is a cover story. The headline reads "Dump Threats Loom Larger."

"George Strakin, past president of Wellington Federation of Agriculture makes a point that sanitary landfill sites are unacceptable in modern times and farmers in Wellington county do not want another dump. Strakin could be speaking for most Ontario farmers across the province. They have fought approvals of new sanitary landfill sites for years, usually to no avail. Their outrage may finally have reached the boiling point. Progress towards alternatives to sanitary landfill sites remain agonizingly slow. Yet every man, woman and child continues to throw out one ton of garbage each year that has to go somewhere.

"Farmers harbour several grave concerns about garbage dumps. They worry about dumps gobbling up farmland and devaluing nearby property. Most of all, they worry about potential ground water problems pertaining to the pollution aspects for their families. Ontario Federation of Agriculture president, Brigid Pyke contends there are 800 potentially hazardous landfill sites in our province."

I want to finish this section, but since it is so close to 12 o'clock, would it be appropriate to move the adjournment of the debate?

On motion by Mr. J. M. Johnson, the debate was adjourned.

The House recessed at 12 noon.

AFTERNOON SITTING

The House resumed at 1:30 p.m.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

ARGOSY FINANCIAL GROUP OF CANADA LTD.

Mr. Philip: Yesterday, the Minister of Financial Institutions (Mr. R. F. Nixon) announced there would be no compensation for the victims of the collapse of Argosy Financial Group of Canada. It is interesting to note that the Liberal research documents and the statements by the Liberals in opposition condemned the operations of the registrar of mortgage brokers and the Ontario Securities Commission. As a government, Liberal members of the standing committee on the Ombudsman recommended that consideration be given to an ex gratia payment to the investors. Prior to the election, the minister indicated that he was considering compensation of the investors.

In July, the executive assistant to the Premier promised that an offer from the government was only weeks away. During the election, the Premier (Mr. Peterson), meeting with some of the investors, raised their hopes once again.

This was the same David Peterson who, as opposition leader, called on the Tory government to compensate the shareholders of Crown Trust. The Weir and Foulds brief to the Ombudsman committee clearly showed that a majority of the people investing in Argosy were small investors who were poorly advised by the government, a government that was not adequately performing its regulatory functions.

It is upsetting to find the Liberals saying one thing in opposition and practising the opposite in government. It is even more upsetting to find promises being made by a government before an election that are not kept after the election. To raise the hopes of senior citizens and small investors that justice would be done during an election campaign and then to dash their hopes afterwards is downright disgusting.

SUPPORT PAYMENTS

Mr. Cousens: I would like to table with this House, and for the information of all, an appeal of a constituent of mine who pleads for justice, an appeal to all who claim to uphold the justice system from a victim of the justice system which, from her perspective, "is nothing more than an ineffective farce leaving those unfortunate en-

ough to get caught up in it disillusioned and disappointed." This is a woman whose spouse left her a number of years ago. She says:

"Where, pray tell me, is justice in the following: A husband after 34 years of marriage in 1980 is able to walk away.... He is able to stall legal proceedings by ignoring legal notices and correspondence, changing solicitors and leaving the province. He is able to feign an inability to support his wife beyond \$150 a month and yet supports another woman, forcing his legal wife to exist on family benefits paid by the government. He is able to flagrantly defy a court order without consequence.

"Is this not enough? Where is justice when a lawyer can 'sit on' a case for six to seven years and virtually accomplish nothing except to disillusion, frustrate and help to destroy the emotional health of his client...?"

"And where is justice in the Law Society of Upper Canada which, when appealed to for assistance and informed of such flagrancy of justice and lack of professional responsibility, turns a deaf ear?"

"Where does one turn when ministers, government case workers and authorities in the community say there is nothing they can do because it is 'just the system'?"

"Where," she says, "I implore you, is our justice system? Is it merely a figment of our imagination? It seems that for those who break or abuse the legal and moral systems there are always rights to be protected, but for those who are the victims of the actions of others there are no rights.

"Is it any wonder that caring, law-abiding citizens feel abused and downtrodden by the system? Is it any wonder that some are led to suicide and others to taking the law into their own hands? I know those feelings: the anger, the frustration, the helplessness. When will the nightmare end? Does no one care?"

TRADE WITH UNITED STATES

Mr. Carrothers: I would like to comment on a matter which is of great concern to the residents of my riding, the proposed Canada-US free trade agreement. Last evening, I held a public forum in my riding to discuss the proposed agreement. This forum was well attended and many points of view were represented. The participants expressed grave concern over the loss of cultural sovereignty which could result if this agreement

is implemented. They were concerned about concessions and control over our energy resources, over control of foreign investment in Canada and over the fact that the agreement does not increase access to the American market.

I was pleased to note that the participants were in agreement with the provincial government's position on the free trade agreement and content with the handling of the matter by the Premier. Unlike the loyal opposition, the participants recognized the regional nature of Canada and the jurisdictional questions that the agreement raises. However, they also noted that Ontario's opinion would hold significant weight, both in Canada and in the United States, when it comes down to the final assessment of this agreement.

This shows once again that the government of Ontario is responding to the concerns of Ontarians and has their support in so doing.

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE

Mr. Swart: I want to bring to the attention of this House another example of the injustices and, really, the outright absurdity of the insurance system we have in this province. This is the case of Danny Ciuffetelli, his wife Mary and his brother-in-law in St. Catharines. Dan and Mary own two cars. Danny's brother-in-law had an accident while driving Danny's car. As a result, Danny and Mary's insurance was cancelled by Allstate. The only alternative they could find was Royal Facility.

Premiums increased from \$850 every six months to \$2,000 every six months. Danny's brother-in-law is now in the process of negotiating—which of course is a false term; it is all arbitrary—his insurance on his own car, and he has been told that he too will likely pay inflated premiums because of the accident. Two innocent people, as well as the guilty one, are being penalized, and two insurance companies get a rake-off for one accident.

In the public plans of western Canada, only the driver responsible for an accident pays a financial penalty on his insurance. Such charges are assessed on the driver's licence, as opposed to his or her insurance system. That only seems to make sense. Why should innocent friends and relatives pay for other's mistakes? Of course, that kind of reform is not even proposed in this government's new legislation. It cannot be done in Ontario because we must protect the insurance industry. I ask the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Wrye), is that not correct?

TRADE WITH UNITED STATES

Mr. Harris: Members of this House may be interested to learn that an overwhelming majority of Canada's 43,000 chartered accountants are in favour of entering into a freer trade agreement with the United States.

A poll commissioned by the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants, entitled *A Study of Members' Attitudes towards Freer Trade*, shows that almost three quarters of the members see it as enhancing the economy as a whole, and those in public practice and industry predict potential benefits to clients and employers.

Forty per cent cited access to a larger market as a major advantage, and 15 per cent noted increased competitiveness for Canadian industry. In Ontario, they saw positive prospects for both telecommunications and financial services.

The Minister of Northern Development (Mr. Fontaine) will be especially interested to know that chartered accountants generally think the resource sector stands to benefit the most.

Commenting on the results, Bill Farlinger, chairman of the board at Clarkson Gordon and newly appointed chairman of CICA's public affairs committee, pointed out: "It is interesting that such a high percentage of CAs are in favour. This is quite credible, because the profession itself is not affected one way or another. These are the unbiased views of business people on what is good for the country."

The only vested interest they may have is that if business is good and if the economy is strong, then they too as a profession will prosper.

Unbiased Canadians who understand finance and are hired by the government every day to provide advice on the economy support free trade. I urge the Premier (Mr. Peterson) and his Liberal colleagues to accept this free, unbiased advice.

TWINNING OF MISSISSAUGA AND KARIYA CITY

Mr. Mahoney: I would like to inform the members of this assembly of a very successful twinning that officially occurred in 1981 between the city of Mississauga and Kariya City, Japan.

Our twinning has brought us many benefits, not only in sharing and experiencing a culture which is very different from ours, but in welcoming some Japanese businesses to Mississauga.

At present we have 63 Japanese companies in our city; approximately 14 of these are head offices. Members will probably recognize them: Bridgestone Canada, Canon Canada Inc., the

Nissan Automobile Co., Sharp Electronics, Hino Diesel Trucks and Janome Sewing Machines, to name but a few.

Along with the numerous sports and student exchanges, we have had the following visitors this year:

The regional policy planners of Japan toured the United States to study city management and policies, and Mississauga was the only Canadian city to be selected by this delegation for study. The Kariya Chamber of Commerce has visited our Mississauga Board of Trade. Community groups from Kariya such as the Rotary Club, International Friendship, firefighters' groups and business people have visited and stayed with their counterparts in our city. The list goes on and on.

The twinning has created jobs for the residents of our city, has created the opportunity for Japanese companies to expand and locate in Canada and has created friendship and trust between the people of Kariya and Mississauga, a very worthwhile achievement.

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STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

TRANSFER PAYMENTS

Hon. Mrs. McLeod: This government has had the enhancement of post-secondary education in Ontario as a priority since it assumed office. I am most pleased to announce that the government continues to recognize this priority and will provide \$1,545,000,000 in university operating grants to Ontario's universities and related institutions in 1988-89.

This amount represents an increase of \$97.5 million or 6.7 per cent over total operating support provided in 1987-88. I should note in this context that university operating grants have increased by 16 per cent between the 1985-86 and the 1987-88 fiscal years. Consequently, we are building on a significantly expanded base.

However, as the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) noted in his statement to the Legislature yesterday, there are significant pressures being placed on the province's finances. We must practise prudent fiscal management in order to maintain the flexibility to adapt to changing circumstances.

I would like to take this opportunity to provide the House with a brief summary of how the \$97.5 million in additional funding support will be allocated.

A major component is \$27 million in new funding to recognize enrolment growth in the current fiscal year, that is, 1987-88 increases

over 1986-87 enrolment levels. This amount has been determined on the basis of estimates of enrolment growth taking place this year and will be adjusted, if necessary, to honour the government's commitment to fully fund enrolment growth over and above increases in base funding.

We will be providing \$2.7 million in increased funding for the ministry's French-language and bilingual programs, bringing the total for these programs to \$20.3 million in 1988-89. This is an increase of 15.3 per cent and represents another measure of the government's continuing commitment to increase spending for post-secondary education in the French language from \$24 million in 1986-87 to \$42 million in 1991-92.

In addition, my ministry has allocated \$3.9 million in increased funding for the faculty renewal program which is supporting the appointment of 500 new faculty members over a five-year period. This increase will bring program funding in 1988-89 to \$16.4 million, an increase of 31 per cent over 1987-88. An additional 71 faculty members will be appointed in 1988-89, the third year of the program, bringing the total number at that juncture to 368.

Finally, base funding will be increased by \$63.9 million or 4.5 per cent. I should also note that tuition fees will be increased in 1988-89 by 4.5 per cent.

These particular allocations have been determined to continue new programs initiated during the last two years and to promote accessibility to university education. I will today be requesting the Ontario Council on University Affairs to advise on the distribution of these funds. I hope to be able to advise individual institutions of their allocations early in the new year.

Turning to the colleges of applied arts and technology, I am pleased to inform the Legislature that the government will be providing \$661.3 million in operating support in 1988-89. This represents an increase of \$37.3 million over the 1987-88 allocation, an overall increase of six per cent comprising two major components, the basic operating grant and special initiatives.

The basic operating grant will increase by 4.5 per cent from the current allocation of \$624 million to \$651.2 million. As with the universities, this increase in grants builds on a significantly larger funding base, up 35.6 per cent from \$487.8 million in 1985-86.

In addition, another \$9.2 million will be made available to support three priority initiatives of this government.

Colleges in northern Ontario serve large areas with many small communities. They must

provide an adequate level and mix of programs to accommodate these conditions. We will be providing \$4 million to assist colleges to meet the programming needs of northern Ontario.

The government recognizes that colleges require funding to provide facilities and modes of program delivery appropriate to students with special needs. Another \$3.1 million will assist the colleges to make the necessary adjustments to accommodate students with special needs.

Finally, there will be \$2.1 million in additional funding to allow the colleges to increase the number of programs offered in the French language.

Details on the distribution of these funds and the allocation to individual colleges will be announced by the ministry as soon as possible. Tuition fees in 1988-89 in the colleges will, as in the past, match the increase in the basic operating grant.

OPEN-CUSTODY RESIDENTIAL YOUTH WORKERS

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: The care and rehabilitation of young people who are convicted of breaking the law in this province is a matter of great importance to every one of us. On any given day, the ministry is responsible for more than 9,000 young persons as part of our duties under the Young Offenders Act. In order to ensure that we are achieving the greatest possible potential for setting young lives back on track in society, it is essential that we equip those entrusted with the care of the young offenders with the skills and knowledge required to make a positive and lasting impact.

Of particular concern to my ministry is the training of staff members in the area of open-custody residential programming. As most members will know, open custody is a new disposition which was introduced with the implementation of the Young Offenders Act. It is a court-ordered sanction which enables some young offenders to serve their custody terms in a residential setting, close to their schools, families, job opportunities, social services and other positive influences which support rehabilitation.

Effective supervision and guidance of adolescents in this type of environment demands strong character and good common sense, but it also calls for specialized knowledge and skills.

Since April 1985, when the Young Offenders Act was implemented for the 16- and 17-year-old age group, the Ministry of Correctional Services has established more than 450 open-custody beds in approximately 45 residences across Ontario.

This capacity has been established through contracts with community agencies which employ approximately 400 youth workers. Throughout the past two and a half years, basic training has been provided through a combination of ministry and agency resources in such areas as orientation to the Young Offenders Act, first aid, safety and security, and elementary supervision techniques.

I am pleased to announce today that a new set of training programs, designed to supplement and expand on existing programs, will be made available through my ministry's human resources and staff training branch to all open-custody youth workers, beginning next month.

Programs to be incorporated in the new curriculum will include safety and security in a community residential setting; planning and managing rehabilitation programs for young persons; advanced supervision techniques; and the improvement of specific skills like counseling, defusing hostility and resolving conflicts.

These training initiatives will be put into place over a period of four months and will be delivered at a cost of approximately \$400,000, including instruction fees, materials and transportation and accommodation for participants, as well as the cost of replacing these workers during their absence.

This renewed emphasis on staff training represents a continuation of our commitment to ensure that all youth workers who carry out the work of this ministry possess a clear and common understanding of the underlying principles and practical approaches to dealing with young persons in conflict with the law.

RESPONSES

OPEN-CUSTODY RESIDENTIAL YOUTH WORKERS

Mr. Farnan: In general, I think it can be said that we would support the open-custody concept. I would think it somewhat ironic that we are bringing in programs of training after the fact that the programs have been established. It is certainly not before it is time, for example, that we would be training staff in safety and security and the planning and management of rehabilitation programs for young persons.

We would like to see an increase in the open-custody programs across the province and we certainly would like to see some distribution of those programs to ensure that all areas of the province are adequately served.

TRANSFER PAYMENTS

Mr. B. Rae: In my spare time I have been reading *Animal Farm*, and I think it is perhaps useful to reflect on the changes in the messages we are getting from the Liberal Party. I am looking over at the government House leader with respect to education and I remember whenever the Tories would announce the funding levels for universities, the degree of excoriation that the minister at that time would receive from the then critic for university affairs, the proposals that were made prior to the 1985 election with respect to superfunding of the universities.

The comment I would make in reply to the Minister of Colleges and Universities (Mrs. McLeod), whose statement we welcome in its timeliness if not in all its substance, is simply that when one strips away the hodgepodge of programs that the government has superimposed on the basic grant, the basic allocation to the universities is barely keeping up with inflation.

I think it is fair to say that in my contact with all the universities, university presidents, faculty associations and student bodies, the fundamental problem remains this question of the basic program and the allocation, so that we do not create—last year it was Sorbara fellows; this year I presume they will be called McLeod fellows—professors who are hired for a space of two or three years on the basis of this discretionary funding or the largess of the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon), which is now notorious throughout the province, and who are then required to leave because the basic increase in the grants has simply not been there.

I say to the minister that I think the real need is for the government to recognize that the increase in the basic appropriation on the basic level of funding has to be higher than the rate of inflation. That is what we have been saying for a long time and we will say it again today.

Unless that problem is dealt with, the problem of overcrowded schools, overcrowded classrooms, problems of inadequate equipment in many of our scientific and engineering faculties, and in regard to the community colleges, problems of workload and issues of that kind—which are not going to go away but which are going to be the subject of yet another round of collective bargaining the next time the community college teachers bargain—those problems will not go away and will not be dealt with. I am very concerned, and I am sure all members of the caucus are, that the minister's announcement today really does not address those problems in the way that we had hoped.

OPEN-CUSTODY RESIDENTIAL YOUTH WORKERS

Mr. Swart: I want to say a word or two relative to the training of the people in the youth homes, in reply to the announcement made by the Minister of Correctional Services (Mr. Ramsay).

I would remind him of what happened at Whitestone Place and St. David's just recently under the government's ministry there. All the training in the world is no good if the government is going to let private entrepreneurs rip off the system. Homes that the ministry does not run should be run by the John Howard Society and the Salvation Army and not by private entrepreneurs.

If they do have some private entrepreneurs who are good and they want to continue them, there has to be some decent policing of the system. There has to be somebody going in there who cares to see that these young people are not abused in that system. What has happened at Whitestone and St. David's home in the Niagara Peninsula is absolutely disgraceful and must never be repeated.

TRANSFER PAYMENTS

Mr. Jackson: It is certainly unfortunate that the minister who speaks for colleges and the minister who speaks for universities has to become an apologist for the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) with her first major and significant statement in this House. It is unfortunate that we have a great numbers game being played with this announcement. I have my own theory. I believe that the seating arrangement in this great House reflects the significance that the Treasurer places on the various ministries he shepherds.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: That is why you are over there.

Mr. Jackson: I am disappointed that the Minister of Colleges and Universities (Mrs. McLeod) has been relegated to the fourth row. Why the fourth row?

That minister today announced that she is giving \$97.5 million. She is not giving \$97.5 million for next year; she is giving \$27 million for this year's costs to pay for the seven per cent increase in enrolment, for the expenses that colleges and universities have been assuming and subsidizing in anticipation of an accessibility envelope, a special fund that her predecessor, the member for York North (Mr. Sorbara), promised this House. The fingerprints of the former member for Eglinton are still on his neck, it was so hard to get that extra funding out of the previous minister.

Now she stands in this House and tells us that she has combined all of this for \$97.5 million. She has not. She is giving only \$70 million to the universities; \$27 million is going to be part of the accessibility envelope. It represents a total overall reduction in grants.

The faculty renewal is another ghost program. I see that the minister has mastered the same use of numbers as the Minister of Housing (Ms. Hošek), refusing to talk about actual faculty hired. She is stating that for this number of dollars she can hire this number of faculty. The fact is, those faculty do not exist today. The universities in Ontario use those dollars to pay for existing faculty to bring their salaries up. But those are not the actual numbers; those are phantom numbers that have been included in this release today, and that is hardly appropriate, given the real problems associated with faculty renewal as set out in the Bovey commission.

It is disappointing that the minister had to preface her remarks to apologize for the difficult situation the Treasurer has put her in. We would expect this minister to consider seriously the fact that her 4.5 per cent base funding probably includes several other hidden, special-program envelopes, so that ultimately it will be shown that these announcements are a significant reduction from last year's expenditures.

OPEN-CUSTODY RESIDENTIAL YOUTH WORKERS

Mr. Cousens: It is an interesting announcement made by the Minister of Correctional Services (Mr. Ramsay). It is something no one could say he was opposed to, but why not go a step further and do something to really help our young people who are under his care to get a new sense of values, a new sense of purpose, to get them started up again into our society? Is the minister just reintroducing the same kinds of programs, the same approach, without a new vision?

It seems to me that is the problem this government has. It is not taking the opportunity that it has to lift things up and say, "Here under our responsibility are young people who have gone astray. We want to help them. We want to set them straight, if we can. We want to motivate them. We want to get them so that they do not come back here again." All I see coming through this announcement is more of the same. We want to educate the staff, we want to educate everyone around our young people, but we want the best for our young people. We want them to achieve their potential, and I do not sense that vision in the minister's announcement.

I want to see something good for people. The minister has the chance within his ministry, in concert with the Ministry of Community and Social Services, to do something good and worth while. Let us put our best foot forward with them. Let us put good facilities there so that they have a good structure. The point that the member for Leeds-Grenville (Mr. Runciman) brought up yesterday, having the Brockville young offenders' secure facility, is the kind of thing that begins to show that we mean it. It is not just putting a small, piddling \$400,000 out. We want to see some true commitment to our young people. They are under the minister's care; let us do something about it.

Let us not forget that there is a huge problem right now in Metropolitan Toronto with the Young Offenders Act. The police are having trouble just working with the act as it is structured. Can the minister not do something to start working with the federal government to change the Young Offenders Act so that we can really work with it properly?

1400

ORAL QUESTIONS

TRADE WITH UNITED STATES

Mr. B. Rae: I would like to ask a question of the Minister of Labour (Mr. Sorbara) but he is absent. I have another leadoff question, which I will address to the Premier.

The Premier has now stated on a number of occasions that he thinks the answer to the problem of the free trade agreement, which he does not like, is a federal election. Can the Premier tell us, if there is no federal election, what is his answer then?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I think you can predict with certainty that there will be a federal election.

Mr. B. Rae: That is a silly answer.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Supplementary.

Mr. B. Rae: Let's go back to square one, then, if that is what we need to do.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Ever thought of another line of work?

Mr. B. Rae: Yes, I have.

Mr. Speaker: Supplementary?

Mr. B. Rae: I would like to ask the Premier just to say, quite clearly, in the event that a federal election does not take place prior to the signing and ratification of this document by both the Congress of the United States and the federal House of Commons and that ratification takes

place and there is no federal election before then, what steps does the Premier intend to take to see that the free trade agreement is stopped?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I gather the honourable member's federal leader is against the deal. He said that if he ever became the Prime Minister of this country—

Mrs. Grier: When.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: —everybody engages in wishful thinking from time to time, and is entitled to do so—he would repudiate the contract. I gather the federal Liberal leader has said the very same thing, so I think everybody knows that, whether that election is held prior to January 1, 1989, or post that particular date.

Mr. B. Rae: I am sure Mr. Broadbent appreciates the endorsement and it is one that will no doubt be of some use at some point.

Seriously, can the Premier explain why he talked during the election campaign so directly about the auto pact, which is clearly in the federal jurisdiction, and said that if the auto pact changes were included in the free trade agreement, he would regard that not only as unacceptable but as something that would mean there could be no deal?

If that is the position of the government, is the Premier not admitting that what he was telling the people of Ontario was, "Elect me and I will campaign so there can be a federal election on this issue as well"? Is that not a rather ludicrous proposition to put to the people? Is the Premier not looking to the ways in which Ontario itself, by exercising its powers in its jurisdiction, can do more to stop the deal?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I have answered this question on several occasions but I am happy to discuss it again with my honourable friend. Yes, as I have told him, the esteemed Attorney General (Mr. Scott) is doing a complete constitutional audit of the situation and looking at all aspects of the deal in which we have power, any incursion into or diminution of provincial powers as a result of that, any potential enabling legislation that would be requested from the federal government. It is at that point, if in fact it is requested, that we would have some direct influence.

As my honourable friend knows, the most obvious area of direct influence is over the question of wine markups. That is one that everybody understands. But as I told my honourable friend, we are under a considerable amount of assault in that area from other sources as well, about which the member, I gather, has

taken the position that he wants to completely disregard it. We have to take all those considerations into account when we are developing policy in that regard. Those discussions are ongoing on those matters and when a conclusion is reached I will share it with my honourable friend.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Mr. B. Rae: I have a question for the Minister of Labour. The minister will no doubt be aware of the incredible extent of the work refusal which has now been going on for two days at McDonnell Douglas. More than 1,000 workers are now refusing to work.

A ministry inspection of that plant took place during the months of September and October and a report was issued in the beginning of November. Can the minister explain how it is possible, having found as many infractions as are contained in this report, that the ministry would not have issued prosecutions directly against management and those managers responsible?

The situation is that the ventilation system is so bad that the air in the plant is partly made up of exhaust fumes from spray painting and elsewhere. Workers are now exposed to substances for which there do not appear to be any control programs in place. It is clear that under the medical surveillance program of the company certain work-related incidents have, on a systematic basis, not been reported to the Workers' Compensation Board. A study has been done where workers have been found to have aluminum levels in their blood far in excess of the appropriate amounts.

Given that 1,000 workers had to go off the job in order to make the ministry hear, can the minister explain how it is possible that the ministry would not have issued prosecutions and would not have done that as soon as the inspections were completed, instead of saying, "We will give you a certain time to comply," and issuing a series of compliance orders which clearly, in the workers' views, are not worth the paper they are printed on?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I take some issue with the Leader of the Opposition's suggestion that this is an incredible work stoppage. He knows and I know that what has happened there is that some 1,000 workers have refused to work because of their concern with occupational health and safety and some of the things that he referred to in his question.

Mr. B. Rae: You do not find it unbelievable that workers would have to do that in order to make you listen?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: What is really erroneous in what the Leader of the Opposition suggests is that the workers are going off work in order to make the ministry listen. The ministry has been in there and has issued a number of orders. His suggestion was that there should be prosecutions at this point. I simply tell him that prosecutions are contemplated when the investigation is over. The investigation is not over, so it is not timely to talk about prosecutions, and he knows that as well as I do.

Mr. B. Rae: On the basis of the report that was issued on November 6, which was issued to the union and to the company, the inspectors found more than 200 violations of the Occupational Health and Safety Act—more than 200 violations and not a single prosecution. The workers themselves have said that the only way they can get the government to listen and to prosecute is by going out. That is precisely what the workers themselves have said. So the minister is quite wrong when he says that is not why the workers are out. The workers are out to get him to enforce the law. He forces them to do that.

How can the minister tolerate a situation where he is forcing thousands of workers off the job because he is not prepared to do the job and he is sitting saying on national television, “It is a question of the company and the workers getting together”? It is not a problem of getting together; it is a problem of a ministry which still has not learned that it has to prosecute in order to protect the health of workers in this province. That is the issue and that is the problem.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: The Leader of the Opposition knows full well that was not what the workers were demanding and that was not the purpose of this walkout. He knows because he has read the document and the demands of the workers that they are asking for prosecutions; I know that and he knows that. He knows full well that prosecutions are being contemplated, and when the investigation is over, if there is a determination that it is appropriate to prosecute, prosecutions will be implemented.

The fact is that yes, he is right, 212 orders were issued; some 160 have been complied with. With certain orders there has been a time frame for compliance. The workers agreed to that. He knows that and I know that, and when the investigation is complete, a decision as to whether prosecutions will be launched will be made.

[Applause]

Mr. B. Rae: Members over there applaud that. The Attorney General (Mr. Scott) applauds that view of law. If anybody else is breaking the law, the Attorney General will be standing up on his high horse and—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Scott: There is a process here. You walk right by the process. The rights of people are of no concern to you people at all.

Mr. Mackenzie: Bloody hypocrites.

Hon. Mr. Scott: Don't call us hypocrites. I have just about had enough of this nonsense.

Mr. Mackenzie: Bring the workers in, the whole thousand of them and see how arrogant you want to be.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. With respect, order. If you wish to waste the time, I will wait. Would the Leader of the Opposition place his question through the chair?

Mr. B. Rae: My third question to the minister is: Can he explain why it is that at a meeting held yesterday between the company and inspectors from the Ministry of Labour, representatives of the union, both at the local level and at the national level, were not allowed to attend? They were forced to wait outside for seven hours in a hall waiting to be asked to come into the meeting and were not allowed in. Police were called by the company in order to get the union to leave.

How is it possible that the inspectors were in that meeting for seven hours while at the same time the company was sending workers home, telling them that if they refused work, they would not be paid a day's pay, which is contrary to the act, as the minister well knows? Reprisals were going on in the plant. His inspectors were there talking to the company while that was going on, and the union was systematically excluded from bringing its point of view and its perspective to that meeting. Can the minister explain how he can tolerate that kind of behaviour?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: The Leader of the Opposition really ought to do justice to the situation and tell the whole story. It was not because inspectors from the Ministry of Labour were meeting with management that the representatives of the union were excluded from that meeting. They were excluded from that meeting, as I am given to understand, because the managers of that company were refusing to meet—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

1410

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Let's let them blow off a little steam.

The situation in which management was refusing to meet with union representatives—

Mr. Mackenzie: You stupid son of a bitch.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member for Hamilton East (Mr. Mackenzie) used unparliamentary language. Would the member withdraw?

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, you have to have more concern than this for—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Would the member withdraw?

Mr. Mackenzie: No, I will not withdraw.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Would the member reflect and withdraw?

Mr. B. Rae: What did he say?

Mr. Speaker: I heard it.

Mr. B. Rae: What did you hear?

Mr. Speaker: Order. Will the honourable member withdraw?

Mr. Mackenzie: I do not think there is anything to withdraw.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I think you had better check Hansard and find out exactly what you are asking him to withdraw.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Standing order 19(d)11 says a member should not use abusive and insulting language. Will the member withdraw?

Mr. Mackenzie: No.

Mr. Speaker: I have no choice but to ask Mr. Mackenzie to remove himself from the chamber for the balance of the day.

Mr. B. Rae: Can I just ask—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Wait until this process is completed.

Mr. Mackenzie left the chamber.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I would like you to check Hansard and review some of the interjections from the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) this afternoon. If you want to describe what the member for Hamilton East said as abusive, then I would like you to look at some of the interjections from that person and tell us next week whether he was abusive this afternoon as well.

Hon. Mr. Scott: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I am perfectly content that the examination

should take place. I said I did not believe the Leader of the Opposition, in his questions to the Minister of Labour, was taking any regard for the due process that the minister was referring to. The member for Hamilton East, on the other hand, referred to the Minister of Labour as a son of a bitch. I do not think that is appropriate language.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: That is inaccurate and you know it.

Hon. Mr. Scott: Well, I heard it.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I would remind all members that they are here to participate in the work and there are standing orders that we go by. I would ask all members to assist the chair in upholding those standing orders.

New question, the member for Burlington South.

TRANSFER PAYMENTS

Mr. Jackson: And now for something completely different.

My question is to the Minister of Education. There are serious questions being raised about the gap in confidence in the education community. Based on the statements that the Premier (Mr. Peterson) has made in the last two provincial elections and the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) in his last two transfer payment statements, it would appear that there is quite a difference an election can make when examining the two sets of statements.

If we are to examine the transfer statement levels, if we are to consider them as high-water marks and compare last year with this year, we are looking at a 7.5 per cent transfer payment last year but only a 6.8 per cent transfer this year.

My question to the minister is, does this represent a reduction in the overall support rate from his government?

Hon. Mr. Ward: I want to indicate to the member for Burlington South that the transfer payment announcement which was made yesterday does in fact reflect what I believe to be an appropriate commitment and level of support for school boards throughout this province and in fact does provide funds for us to begin the implementation of the many significant commitments that this government has made to education in this province.

Mr. Jackson: I am somewhat concerned that we now have the second minister of this government in a social policy field rising to his feet and performing as an apologist for the

Treasurer. My thesis seems to continue to be borne out. We now have the Minister of Education placed not in the first row, as has been the tradition in this province, but in the third row, and he is not even a member of the policy and priorities board of cabinet of this government. To have him stand and make that statement is cause for concern.

Last year in the transfer payment statement, there was a clear and concise statement with respect to the funds that were going to special program initiatives as announced by the minister's predecessor, there was a clear enunciation of where the dollars were coming from with respect to separate school funding, and yet this year we have a rather convoluted general statement.

My question: Will the minister confirm what the general level grants are going to be for this year, given that last year's were at 5.5 per cent?

Hon. Mr. Ward: So that the member for Burlington South does not misunderstand, I want to disabuse him of the notion that I am in fact an apologist. Frankly, I take some pride in saying to the member that the level of transfer payments which were enunciated yesterday by the Treasurer do in fact take into account some very significant commitments that this government has made in education; they reflect an additional commitment of some quarter of a billion dollars to education in this province. I want to assure my colleague the member for Burlington South that in the very near future I will be coming forward with a statement which enunciates the breakdown of those transfer payments and the level of support.

Mr. Jackson: When all is said, the minister is increasing at a decreasing rate. That is no legacy for the hundreds of thousands of children in this province who depend upon him personally to advocate for them in the cabinet of this government.

I want to talk to the minister about the suppression of information, which seems to be a new theme that is emerging from this government. We established two weeks ago that the three-year forwarding statistics, the rolling statistics on school board transfer payments, were four months late and were finally made public after the election. When you look at last year's statistics, and those of every year previously, there is a special page referred to as the provincial summary. Just one entry, if I might, is that the percentage of net expenditure borne by the province in 1985 was 37.99 per cent in the

elementary panel, and in 1986 it was 35.79 per cent. That is a clear reduction.

Mr. Speaker: The question is?

Mr. Jackson: My question is that for some funny reason, for the first time in Ontario's history, that provincial summary is missing from the report. When I called the ministry to ask, officials indicated, "From above, we were told that this document was not be released."

My question is, what is the minister trying to hide?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Interjection.

1420

Mr. Speaker: Order. Would the member take his seat.

Hon. Mr. Ward: I would just like to point out to my friend the member for Burlington South that the report which he raised in this Legislature last week, as I indicated to him, was released immediately upon being brought to my attention. I would also remind the member that the report on Prescott-Russell which came to my attention on Monday was released within 48 hours. So, to begin with, there is no suppression of information.

Second, I point out to my friend that if he would review the three-year statistics carefully, he would note that the figures for the past two previous years are based on actual expenditure levels by the province and the boards, while the third-year statistics are solely on the basis of estimates and therefore one cannot extrapolate from those figures the rate of support. I will be happy to provide that summary to him the moment the year-end figures become available.

RENT REGULATION

Mr. Cousens: I have a question for the Minister of Housing. Earlier this week, this advertisement was placed in Toronto papers and around Ontario indicating that the rent review guideline for 1988 is 4.7 per cent. At the bottom of this notice, there is reference to the rent review information centre and a telephone number. One of our staff phoned that number today and asked the official how long it would be before a landlord's application for an increase above the guideline would be processed, at which point the official broke out in laughter and said it would be so long and that things were so backed up that she could not give him a date.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: That must be Don Cousens phoning.

Mr. Cousens: It is not a funny matter. There are people in Ontario right now who do not have a place to live. The government has a promise to provide 102,000 places by 1989, and we are now talking about people with problems. If the Premier wants to start interjections, I will interject back to him.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I just want to remind all members that interjections are out of order. Please place your question.

Mr. Cousens: I am giving enough background so that the honourable minister has a reason to answer it.

It has to do with the fact that this person who was asked by a researcher "How long would it be?" answered that it would be so long and that things were so backed up she could not give him a date and not to worry. Our staff person then went on and commented that any decision made in favour of the landlord would be retroactive to the date of the application and therefore could amount to thousands of dollars. He asked her what he should do, and the official replied, "Set up a bank account and start saving."

I ask the minister, are the comments by her official indicative of the ministry's official policy?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I have indicated in this House before, and I will again today, that the time being taken in processing these applications is of great concern to me and that we are working very hard to speed that process up.

Mr. Cousens: The minister's own officials are laughing at the state of the ministry. In the minister's own opinion, what should a tenant be doing in this kind of situation?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I cannot comment on the alleged attitude of anyone in the ministry that the gentleman opposite wishes to talk about. I can tell him I am extremely concerned that the tenants of Ontario be appropriately protected and that the rent review legislation works the way it is supposed to. That is very clear to me, and I have made it very clear in this House. I believe the work we are doing now will clear this process up as quickly as is humanly possible.

[Applause]

Mr. Cousens: Clap on. There is no one clapping in Ontario. This minister is not providing a solution to the people who are asking what they should do. This minister has failed to respond to the question of what she is going to do to provide 102,000 affordable rental units in Ontario by 1989, which is an election promise by the Premier. This minister has not responded to

what she is going to do about the radioactive soil on McClure Crescent. This minister has not responded to the people in Scarborough who are concerned about the Rouge Valley. What kind of direction is being given that ministry—Madam Minister?

An hon member: Oh, come on.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I am new in this House. I gather matters of tone are not up for discussion about whether they are parliamentary or not.

I must say to the honourable member opposite that when he asked the question about McClure Crescent, I referred it to the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley). There was a time when Ontario land was under the control of the Ministry of Housing. The responsibility for Ontario land is now with the Ministry of Government Services. It would have been more appropriate for him to have asked that question of either the Minister of the Environment or the Minister of Government Services (Mr. Patten). I consider that to be a responsive answer to his question.

I have indicated in this House a number of times the extent and depth of my concern about the problems we are having with the backlog in rent review. I have also indicated what we are going to do about it. That commitment remains. It is very strong and very firm. I am prepared to say that as many times as it takes for the member opposite to understand.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Mr. B. Rae: To go back to the Minister of Labour, I am sure the minister will be aware, because of the file on this matter, that this is not the first time there has been a work stoppage of a rather major kind at McDonnell Douglas. It is not the first time there has been an inspection. It is not the first time the issue has been raised by members of this party.

He will be aware that my colleague the former member for Sudbury East raised this matter with the ministry on several occasions. There have been at least two work refusals, one of them involving as many as 50 workers, because of the incredible amounts of chemicals found in the cleaning of a wing of a plane.

I wonder if the minister can explain, given this history, why it took the ministry that long to do the inspection it did in 1987, and if I can come back to the very basic point, having gone and dealt with the company over a number of years and seeing what its attitude to health and safety is, why his attitude would be: "Here are some work orders. Here is a long period of time in

which to comply with them, but there will be no prosecutions for breaches to the Occupational Health and Safety Act." Surely that sends out a terrible signal to every single employer. If a large employer like McDonnell Douglas can get away with this, what about every small operator who is not even being inspected by the Ministry of Labour?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: There has been a long history and in many respects it has been a deplorable one. The orders that were made against McDonnell Douglas were very substantial indeed, some 212. When the ministry orders the installation of a new ventilation system, it cannot expect that ventilation system will be in tomorrow. The time span was negotiated with both management and the union and agreed upon. In the interim, it was ordered that in specific areas respirators could be used. What my friend the Leader of the Opposition does when he brings up this subject is to create a tone that suggests that somehow the Ministry of Labour is working hand in hand with management.

For example, at the meeting where the union was excluded, our objective during that meeting was to get management to sit down with the union. They would not do that. That is deplorable. We are back there today at the same meetings trying to bring the parties together because our interests are twofold: to ensure that the workplace is safe and to ensure that the workers are not put in danger if and when they return to that workplace. He knows that.

Mr. B. Rae: The minister has to understand that the message he is sending out to every small operation that is never visited by a Ministry of Labour inspector unless the Ministry of Labour gets a scared phone call from somebody from a phone booth who says, "Come and see this plant; it is a mess." The minister and I both know that those phone calls get made, and people are terrified because they think they are going to get fired.

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I can only say to the minister that if he is not prepared to get tough and prosecute a company of the size and reputation of McDonnell-Douglas with thousands of workers in a highly organized plant, with the Canadian Auto Workers there, with health and safety inspectors and representatives there from the union, if he is not prepared to deal with that kind of company, in just what kind of situation is he prepared to say, "It is not a question of getting together; it is a question of the Ministry of Labour being prepared to prosecute

when prosecutions are warranted"? He is clearly not prepared to do that.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: My friend the member for York South makes a whole bunch of assumptions which are inappropriate and really do inappropriately represent the situation at McDonnell-Douglas.

There are two issues here. The first is the issue of putting into place work orders that will result in a safe workplace. That work was done. During a period of 45 days, there were some 212 orders issued.

The second issue, quite apart from that, is whether or not prosecutions will be launched against McDonnell-Douglas. In that matter, investigations are still going on. I cannot tell my friend from York South anything, but if he suggests that there are not going to be any prosecutions, he is simply prejudicing an investigation that is still, as I said, ongoing.

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE REVIEW BOARD

Mr. Runciman: My question is to the Minister of Community and Social Services. I am sure he will recall that last week I asked him about the appointment of the Liberal Party supporter with a criminal record to the Social Assistance Review Board. The minister said at that time, "This was the most open, the fairest selection process, and it was based totally, completely and entirely on merit."

Can the minister tell us today, bearing in mind that his ministry received 1,200 applications for 12 positions, whether the same open and fair process was followed in the appointment to the same board of one Vetta Rangan, president of the Southeast Asia Liberal Association?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: The honourable member will be aware of the fact that a board was presently in existence as the new one was being confirmed, and it was open to the existing members of that board to apply for the new positions.

The lady the member refers to fit that classification, and the answer is yes.

Mr. Runciman: We are talking about two Liberal workers out of 12 appointments to the board, so maybe we should try for three.

I am sure that the 1,200 applicants would like to know about our former colleague Ross McClellan, an appointment to the board clearly based entirely on merit. We are not questioning Mr. McClellan's appointment, but we are wondering, when we talk about the criteria, when Mr. McClellan submitted his application and if it was before the August 14 deadline. If

not, I suggest that the minister violated his own guidelines with this appointment.

Is it possible the minister made another appointment without following his open and fair process, namely, that of one Isobel Quenneville, who worked for well-known Liberals Paul Martin and Mark MacGuigan as well as the Liberal Party of Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: I detect in the member's question a desire to have a rundown of the background of every one of those members. I presume that the member would appreciate the fact that there is an attempt at some overall balance. I have indicated to him very clearly that merit, fairness and openness were the primary criteria. I stick by that particular comment. I am not prepared to say, however, that there are no members on that board who represent his party, who represent the New Democratic Party, who represent this party. Clearly, there are.

Mr. Speaker: New question. The member for Mississauga West.

AIRPORT TAXIS AND LIMOUSINES

Mr. Mahoney: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I might add on behalf of those of us sitting up here, we think you are doing a terrific job today.

My question is to the Minister of Municipal Affairs. The ground transportation system at Mississauga International Airport, otherwise known as Pearson International Airport and often mistakenly referred to as Toronto International Airport, located in the great city of Mississauga, has been, to say the least, in a state of upheaval over the years because of a total lack of interest by the Department of Transport. They seem to want only to play with the aircraft while the limousines and taxis are simply a necessary evil in their minds.

The Department of Transport recently commissioned a study by Touche Ross, the third or fourth study commissioned by it on this issue, and that study recommends, among other things, that in three years' time, all existing licences should be stripped from their current owners and put into a hat where they will be drawn, lottery style, and given to the winners of this new lottery.

Mr. Speaker: And the question?

Mr. Mahoney: Will the minister fight this ridiculous proposal from the federal government which, if implemented, will destroy not only the jobs of individuals but also the economic wellbeing of hundreds of Mississauga and

Toronto families currently relying on this industry for their living?

Hon. Mr. Eakins: I want to thank the honourable member for his question. I know this is a question he has a great deal of interest in and considerable experience of. I am sure every member of this House will agree that it is a very complex issue and one that I have already begun to review, but I intend to consult with my colleagues, especially those from the member's municipality and from Metropolitan Toronto.

I do hope we can find a resolution to this problem and I will keep the member and the members of this House advised of any developments.

ALACHLOR

Mr. Wildman: In view of the length of the preamble to the question of my friend the member for Mississauga West (Mr. Mahoney), I can see why the minister complimented him.

I have a question of the Minister of the Environment. In view of the fact that his own ministry, along with the ministries of Health, Labour, and Agriculture and Food, appeared before the Alachlor Review Board hearings to request that the federal ban on that pesticide, a suspected carcinogen, be maintained and in view of the commitment signed yesterday in the United States to improve water quality in the Great Lakes basin, will the minister write to his federal colleague the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Wise, urging him to reject the review board's recommendation that the alachlor ban be lifted?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: We have been awaiting this announcement from Ottawa for some time. The Minister of Agriculture, as the member appropriately points out, has the opportunity now to review the decision of the board, to gather any other information he deems appropriate and then to render a decision. We in the Ministry of the Environment are in a position to review that decision, the decision having just come down, and the reasons for the decision in some detail. As soon as I have been able to do that, I will be able to determine a future course of action.

The member is correct that our ministry has expressed some concerns in the past. I think that is one of the reasons that we saw this pause in the use of alachlor last year, which many farmers in the province rely on to undertake their activities as they deem appropriate. We made comments that were helpful, I think, in having this special board set up to review it. Now we would like to

look at the detail of not just the decision itself but the reason that the decision was reached.

Mr. Wildman: Since the control of this herbicide would come under the Pesticides Act, which is in the minister's jurisdiction, and since there is an alternative herbicide available to the farmers of this province, could the minister give a commitment to this House that he will report back when his review is complete? Also, in the event the federal government decides to lift the ban on alachlor, will he make a commitment to the House that his ministry, the Pesticides Advisory Committee, will place alachlor in schedule 1 under the Pesticides Act for use in this province?

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Hon. Mr. Bradley: The member has appropriately mentioned a number of options which are available. I would like to report back to him and to others who are interested. When that review is complete, I would be pleased to adopt a course of action.

One of the complicating factors in the decision was that there was some reference made to the alternative product the member mentions. There may be some legal or procedural complications in that regard. That is why I want to review carefully the scientific information, as my ministry is doing, and, in addition to that, the regulatory information, to ensure that whatever action we take is not in the long term going to be detrimental to the environment of Ontario. I know I do not sound as precise as the member would like, but there is a reason for that.

ONTARIO SECURITIES COMMISSION INVESTIGATION

Mr. Runciman: My question is for the Minister of Financial Institutions. My office has recently been in contact with the Ontario Securities Commission to determine the status of an investigation launched over two years ago in August 1985 into the operations of a company known as PEC Financial owned by Wilf Caplan. We have been stonewalled in our efforts to obtain any information. The commission would not admit there was an investigation under way, let alone the status of the investigation.

We are dealing here with the spouse of a prominent member of the executive council. Is it not incumbent on the Ontario Securities Commission to deal with this matter as expeditiously as possible and to make the findings public?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I will make inquiries and report to the House.

Mr. Runciman: Again, I am perturbed, as many of us are on this side of the House, with the lack of knowledge of many ministers in terms of their various responsibilities. This minister said yesterday that he did not have a briefing note in response to a question from this side of the House. Obviously, they are not on top of their portfolios.

I want to say that this particular situation is not a normal kind of situation. We are dealing with a complaint launched against the spouse of the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan) by a group of doctors. We on this side of the House want to be assured that there has been no political interference in this process and that the delays in handling this complaint are in no way related to delays in bringing in new conflict-of-interest legislation. We want the minister to assure us that is the case and report back to this House, preferably next week at the latest.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: There has been no interference or delay. As far as the conflict-of-interest legislation is concerned, the honourable member knows it is before the House and we are waiting for the conclusion of the throne speech debate and a variety of motions to set aside business to discuss matters of urgent public importance. I know the House leader intends to proceed with the conflict-of-interest legislation without delay. As a matter of fact, we wanted to pass it in June and it was the member's party that sent it out to a committee.

RENTAL ACCOMMODATION

Mr. Breaugh: I have a question for the Minister of Housing concerning the convert-to-rent program. When this program was announced, the minister of the day stated it was essentially designed to provide moderate-cost rental apartments. The literature provided on this particular program says these costs may actually be lower than for comparable units in conventional apartment buildings. That being the aim of the program, how does the explain that rental units in Toronto under this program are coming on to the market now at \$1,100 and \$1,200 a month?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: The convert-to-rent program was and is designed to give us rental units, to increase the supply of rental units and have them be at more moderate rents. I do not have examples of \$1,100 or \$1,200 rents. I would be glad to hear about them.

One of the things the member asked me about yesterday was a particular project. Let me tell him here today that the project he mentioned

yesterday got seven units. The total support of the ministry was \$49,000 and the ministry is indeed investigating the allegations he has made.

Mr. Breaugh: This is a new process here. You ask the question today and you get the answer tomorrow; as long as I figure out the rules of the game.

Here are the examples: on Howland Avenue in Toronto, \$1,100 a month for a two-bedroom unit; at 30 High Park Boulevard, for a one-bedroom unit, \$850, and for a two-bedroom, \$1,100; at 71 Oakwood Avenue, a one-bedroom for \$1,200. Does the minister consider this to be moderate housing for people on a moderate income, because by the usual standard of about 25 per cent of one's income for shelter cost, this would go to people in the \$50,000 to \$60,000 income bracket. Is this the member's version of moderate income?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: Our commitment to increasing the supply of housing which people can afford is very strong. We have used a variety of programs to do it. In the past, convert-to-rent has worked to do that in various parts of the province. The program is in use not only in Metro Toronto, but also in various other parts of the province. As I said yesterday, one of the things we are always doing is looking at the impact of our programs in different parts of the province.

MEDICAL WASTE

Mr. Eves: I have a question of the Minister of Health. Over the past week we have read reports about medical waste being found in municipal dumps around the city of Toronto. This waste includes used needles, swabs, blood, human hair and human body parts. Can the minister tell this House if she has instructed her staff to contact the area's hospitals and medical clinics to investigate where this medical waste is coming from.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: In response to the critic in the third party, I was equally distressed to hear about the discovery of medical waste at the landfill sites. I want to say here in the House that I understand and sympathize with the concerns of the sanitation workers. This practice is unacceptable in my opinion. The ministry has initiated a program to help hospitals upgrade their incineration capabilities. This was done last August. Fifteen million dollars has been provided to improve and replace deficient hospital incinerators. This practice is simply unacceptable as it exists today.

Mr. Eves: That is all very well and good, and I quite frankly concur that the minister has the responsibility to determine where this waste is

coming from. If the hospitals and medical clinics in the area are using correct procedures, why is this occurring? In light of the fact that over 18 months ago—in April 1986—this study was complete, and that the minister has just said the government has spent some \$15 million to correct the problem, how come the problem still exists? What is she doing about getting to the bottom of it?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: Currently, there are 54 hospitals actively involved in upgrading their equipment or replacing the incineration equipment. Any medical facility dumping medical waste is subject to fines under the Environmental Protection Act. The investigation enforcement branch of the Ministry of the Environment is investigating and assisting in the investigation. I understand there are investigations into these charges which are under way at present and I am awaiting the results of those investigations.

TRADE WITH UNITED STATES

Mr. Farnan: My question is to the Minister of Labour. Recent reports by this government indicated that the textile, shoe and clothing industries are among the industries most threatened by the free trade deal. The report indicated there are around 50,000 production workers in these industries in Ontario, 74 per cent of whom are women. These industries have traditionally played a key role in the economy of Cambridge and the rest of the province. I am concerned that all the government appears to be doing is to release reports. I know it says it is opposed and I know it says it wants other people to take some action, but precisely what is this government going to do to stop this deal?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I think my friend the member for Cambridge was referring to a report that was recently released by the Ontario women's directorate concerning the vulnerability of women in particular industries. He has mentioned a few of them.

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He raises a very serious problem, and that is the problem of labour adjustment in Canada, whether or not we are contemplating a trade treaty with our friends to the south. If my friend from Cambridge had been in this House a little bit longer, he might well have addressed his question to the Minister of Skills Development (Mr. Curling), and if the Minister of Skills Development were answering that question, I think he would make at least one very important point.

Traditionally in Canada, the business of funding labour adjustment and long-term retraining programs has been the responsibility of the federal government in Ottawa. What is of note is that that government, in contemplation of a trade treaty with the United States, over the past four years has reduced the global budget that it allocates to long-term job retraining from \$2.2 billion in 1984 to \$1.5 billion in the current fiscal year. Those statistics are deplorable. This suggests that, free trade agreement or not, there will not be funds available for labour adjustment in this country in the future, certainly not at the historic levels we have needed in the past.

Mr. Farnan: I would remind the honourable minister it does not matter how long you have been in this House; no matter what minister you ask a question of, you still do not get an answer.

I have had the occasion to read of an incident in New York City of a woman who was violently assaulted in the court of her apartment complex. The police filed a report of 38 eyewitness accounts. All disapproved of the crime, yet no one went to the woman's rescue. Their overall response was, "Why should I get involved?"

Will the minister agree that a violent attack is being undertaken on the textile, shoe and apparel industry in Ontario and across Canada by means of a proposed free trade agreement and that the Premier (Mr. Peterson) and his 95-member observation squad are expressing their disapproval of the attack on traditional industries but are reacting in the same cowardly manner?

Is it not true that the response of this government is simply: "Let someone else save the industries. Why should we get involved?" Is it not about time the minister realized—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The question has been asked.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: If my friend the member for Cambridge is making the argument that every time the federal government reduces spending in one of its areas of constitutional jurisdiction, provincial governments all over Canada ought to step in, I can simply say to him that I disagree with his view of federalism.

Obviously, within our constitutional responsibilities we have been, are and will be doing more, but if he is suggesting that we ought to occupy areas that are the legal, moral and constitutional responsibility of a Conservative government or any government in Ottawa, we are not talking on the same wavelength and I disagree with him.

SKILLS TRAINING

Mr. Jackson: I have a question for the Minister of Skills Development about the appar-

ent lack of support he has received from two of his cabinet colleagues in statements they have made, either publicly or in this House.

Particularly, I am referring to the reference of the Minister of Labour (Mr. Sorbara) to the possibility of job loss and that he chalks this up to the creative language he used, which is quite good: "The main thrust is that women who have lost their jobs will have a terribly difficult time re-entering the labour force in a different capacity," Sorbara said—pretty creative language.

Then his other colleague the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney), when referring to the swelled welfare ranks in this province, made further references to the lack of retraining opportunities in this province.

My question to the minister is, given that two-and-a-half-year record and period of time that his government has had to prepare for these kinds of matters, what confidence can we have in him that he is going to be able to develop the programs and spend the necessary dollars so that particularly hard-hit older workers, women and persons needing skills will have their needs met and not be left to the mercy of a welfare program which we do not take any pride in building?

Hon. Mr. Curling: I should say the member should have ultimate confidence in this minister to perform his duties as the Minister of Skills Development. I say that in all earnestness, because my colleagues support that view too, as was well articulated by the Minister of Labour (Mr. Sorbara). As he stated, we must be very mindful of the fact that the federal government has reduced its contribution in the Canadian job strategy from \$2.2 billion in 1985 to \$1.5 billion. I think what he is trying to say to the member is that if we did not have that very strong position and commitment to training our people in Ontario, we would be in a very serious situation today.

Mr. Jackson: Instead of lecturing the House, the member should look at his briefing notes. He was supposed to talk about this transition program. That was his cue. The fact is it was mentioned in the preceding throne speech and it was not mentioned in the most recent throne speech. We have this gap of confidence between what the Premier (Mr. Peterson) stated during the election and what the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) stated during the throne speech.

Mr. Speaker: Put the question.

Mr. Jackson: We have been subjected to a lecture in this House by the former minister and this minister about moral commitments.

I have the public accounts for the Ministry of Skills Development for 1986-87. We are advised that the federal government has cut back, are we? If the minister examined this document, he will realize that in skills training, the ministry underspent by \$17.7 million. In youth opportunities alone, the ministry underspent by \$45 million. He can stand in this House and lecture about commitments of government and use the word "moral" when his total underspending in skills training in this province is \$64 million.

Mr. Speaker: Question.

Mr. Jackson: Why did the minister underspend so badly, knowing the problems we have? What confidence can we have in him that he is going to dedicate the resources necessary to resolve the retraining needs of older workers and women in this province who are going to be most adversely affected in the coming year? He has no strategy.

Hon. Mr. Curling: I was rather suspicious when the honourable member asked me, as he said, an easy question or a "cue" to respond—very eloquently stated. I know that my honourable friend was my critic in Housing and now, I gather, is also the critic for everyone here and also for Skills Development. Of course, the potential for him being the leader of the third party is quite obvious.

The commitment of this government is not to express and to articulate in the throne speech everything that Skills Development will do or that other ministries will do. We know there is no way we can set out the entire mandate of all the ministries here because that would take us another two or three days of throne speech in order to say what Labour does, what Skills Development does and all that. Therefore, if he is looking in the throne speech for the entire mandate of the Ministry of Skills Development, he will not see it there.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Mr. B. Rae: First, is the Minister of Labour aware of the fact that the McDonnell Douglas plant is now completely shut down, there are over 2,000 workers out and there is no indication of any change in time for the next shift? Was he aware of the fact that, when the report came down from the ministry inspectors, the last page of the report reads as follows:

"After preliminary review of certain sections of the report, the union expressed serious misgivings in the content and directions given in the report and indicated that it could not sign the report as it might be misleading to its members?"

Can the minister tell us, when he realized that the union was not satisfied with the intent, direction and ability of the ministry and of the government of Ontario, let alone the company, what steps he took to restore confidence between the union and the ministry with respect to its willingness to enforce?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: First, I am aware or at least I have been given an indication that the plant is now closed down and that the parties are not yet meeting. That, of course, is bad news. It is very serious. I was not aware of that last paragraph that the member for York South suggests was in the report, but obviously I will look into that.

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PETITION

CONTROL OF SMOKING

Mr. Philip: I have a petition signed by 67 persons living in Weston, Rexdale and generally the west end of Metro, to His Honour the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the present Liberal government of Ontario has failed to deal with the problem of enacting just legislation in order to have a smoke-free environment in all places of work and all public places, we petition the Ontario Legislature to call on the government to introduce laws which forbid smoking in all public places and all places of employment."

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

TRAVEL INDUSTRY AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Wrye moved first reading of Bill 25, An Act to amend the Travel Industry Act.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I am introducing amendments to the Travel Industry Act which would enable the ministry to deal more effectively with registrants who are in serious financial difficulty. In addition to certain housekeeping changes and clarifications, this bill will allow the director of the consumer protection division to apply to court for direction on the disposition of frozen assets of a failing registrant and for an order to appoint a receiver and manager.

I have a second bill to introduce.

PREPAID SERVICES ACT

Hon. Mr. Wrye moved first reading of Bill 26, An Act to regulate Prepaid Services.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I am pleased to introduce for first reading today the Prepaid Services Act. This important legislation will protect consumers who make upfront payment to fitness, modelling, diet, talent, sports and similar clubs. The bill limits contract lengths and initiation fees, requires monthly payment options, safeguards funds paid before the club opens and provides increased protection to consumers by significantly reducing the risk of financial loss.

I have a third and final bill to introduce.

PREPAID FUNERAL SERVICES ACT

Hon. Mr. Wrye moved first reading of Bill 27, An Act respecting Prearranged and Prepaid Funerals.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I am reintroducing legislation introduced in the last parliament regarding the Prepaid Funeral Services Act. The legislation calls for the creation of a fund to compensate consumers for losses and it guards against the misappropriation of funeral funds held in trust. It also includes more stringent bonding requirements, a ban on door-to-door and telephone solicitations and other major changes in the way prepaid funeral plans are sold and administered. I believe this will provide the best protection available in Canada to consumers who prepay for funeral services.

CONRAD GREBEL COLLEGE ACT

Mr. Epp moved first reading of Bill Pr71, An Act respecting Conrad Grebel College.

Motion agreed to.

FUNERAL SERVICES AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mrs. Caplan moved first reading of Bill 28, An Act to amend the Funeral Services Act.

Motion agreed to.

TORONTO SKI CLUB ACT

Mr. Lipsett moved first reading of Bill Pr54, An Act to revive the Toronto Ski Club.

Motion agreed to.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

(continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

Mr. J. M. Johnson: I am pleased to continue debating the throne speech. This morning I mentioned in my comments pertaining to the agriculture sector that the member for Kingston and The Islands (Mr. Keyes) had won the international plowing match competition but still had not received his award. That occurred at 11:45 this morning, and within 10 minutes he had been presented with his plaque, which he is now holding up, so we can see that members on this side can get action.

The reason I mention this international plowing event is that it is held each year, and maybe some of the new members are not aware of the fact that it is an open competition held annually for any Ontario MP or MPP. Next year it will be in Perth, and I would encourage all members to try to attend if possible. They can start practising their plowing this week.

When I had to adjourn the debate at noon today, I was expressing my concern about environmental issues, especially issues pertaining to garbage dumps, or I should say the lack of acceptable locations for these sites, and that is the problem.

To emphasize the urgent concern that many municipalities have with this problem, I will make reference to a letter I just received a short while ago. The letter is from Central Wellington Landfill Site and is signed by the deputy clerk, Don Wilson. It is addressed to me and it requests a meeting with the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley):

"In regards to our closure of the Central Wellington Landfill Site in the very near future, could you please arrange a meeting with our representatives and the Ministry of the Environment to discuss future funding for a proposed landfill site to service the town of Fergus, the village of Elora, the township of Nichol, the township of Peel and the township of Pilkington."

I have requested a meeting with the minister in the hope that we will have some satisfactory answers, but it highlights the concern that many municipalities have in trying to solve a problem that nearly every member in this House will have in his riding with his municipalities some time, either now or certainly in the near future.

In eastern Ontario, studying waste management for municipalities has become a major growth industry, and that is a sad situation. The Minister of the Environment and the government should be taking the lead in providing our municipalities with the expertise to solve this very serious environmental problem. If we have

the expertise and knowledge to send a man to the moon, surely we can solve our garbage problems.

1510

In my opinion, the answer in the riding of Wellington is an energy-from-waste facility located adjacent to the University of Guelph. This would solve most of the waste disposal problems for the city of Guelph and for most of the county of Wellington.

There is some question about the environmental safety of this plant. That can only be answered by the fact that the Ministry of the Environment approved two sites in London, one at the 3M plant and one adjacent to a London hospital. Surely, if a facility such as this can be built adjacent to a hospital that treats cancer patients, there cannot be too much of an environmental problem with it.

Recycling should be encouraged, and the ministry has moved in that direction, but it has a limited potential. Kitchener has tried it but still buries 85 per cent of its garbage. Mississauga has experimented with it, and it is not totally satisfactory. It certainly will never solve the full problem. We need recycling but only in conjunction with energy-from-waste facilities and keeping landfills to the bare minimum.

I would like to move on to the conflict-of-interest legislation. I would like to go on record as saying that I support this legislation but I feel it should be stronger. Ministers and even parliamentary assistants should be required to divest themselves of assets that could be affected by cabinet decisions or at least should be required to have them placed in a blind trust. As the throne speech says, "The people of Ontario must have full confidence in their representatives." This legislation does not provide that confidence. In fact, as drafted, it will not eliminate conflict of interest but indeed may even accommodate ministers who are in conflict situations. Our citizens deserve better protection than this bill offers.

Dealing with transportation, I would like to mention that there is nothing in the throne speech for western Ontario. There is something, but not much, for northern and eastern Ontario, but nothing for western Ontario. Surely, with the millions of dollars the government collects through the fuel and gas tax and the many other taxes levied under the transportation sector, all parts of our province are entitled to some benefits. I would encourage the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) and the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Fulton) to provide adequate funding for all

parts of the province, and I speak especially for the part I represent, western Ontario.

The Meech Lake accord: the government intends to establish a select committee on constitutional reform to consider the accord. I understand that possibly they will be doing that next week. I look forward to the hearings that will be held by this committee. While I am proud of the fact that I live in the wonderful province of Ontario, I am even prouder of the fact that I am a Canadian. I personally have strong reservations about Canada as a whole being strengthened by this agreement. I firmly support the concept of a strong federal government that speaks for all Canadians.

On the free trade deal, I would like to say that in my personal opinion, too much is being said on this issue now, pro and con. Most Canadians are at a loss to determine whether it is a good deal or not, and I am one of them. I look forward to the final draft to answer many of the questions I have about this initiative, but for the record, I would like to read the summary of a brief on the free trade agreement from the Ontario Cattlemen's Association, signed by Hugh Sharpe, president.

"The Canada-United States free trade agreement will be positive for the Ontario and Canadian cattle and beef industry. The real alternatives for Canada are to forge ahead and confirm this bilateral trade agreement or be prepared to fight an ongoing economic guerrilla war to retain access to the United States market.

"Ontario is the second-largest fed-cattle-producing province in Canada and the largest red-meat-producing province. Receipts from cattle and hogs combined account for one third of farm cash income in Ontario. The industry has demonstrated its ability to compete. The agreement should ensure long-run stability for the industry rather than fighting a rearguard action to preserve access. In our view, there is only one alternative and that is to work towards confirming and improving, where possible, the Canada-United States free trade agreement."

I have an article here that I am not sure I should read because of earlier events of the day, but I will take a shot at it anyway. It is in the Mount Forest Confederate. "Egremont farmer gives hunters a clear sign that they are not welcome on her land." The sign says, "Hunters, bastards and other vermin keep out." If that is unparliamentary, I apologize. Those are not my remarks. The reason I mention it is the fact that hunting is a problem in many of the townships and counties in this province and it is becoming more of a problem now because we have people who do not

abide by the legislation we have on hunting regulations.

In the recent past, I think the first week of November, they had a controlled deer hunt in Wellington in zone 80. The controlled deer hunt means that only certain people are allowed to hunt. A certain number of licences are issued and there is a draw conducted to come up with that number. I think it was 788 hunters licensed.

It was brought to my attention that many of the residents in Wellington were denied a licence to hunt in their own area. This created a problem. I contacted the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio). He said that they had to go by the draw or the lottery system, that there was not much they could do about it, but that they did try to give a certain number there. The problem we have is that the people who own the land and who should have the right to hunt on it are being denied that right.

Legislation says that if you own 50 acres and live on the land, you will receive a licence. What happens is the family is not brought into that. I think there are two licences issued. There could be three or four boys in the family who like to hunt and some of them will be denied the right to hunt. It becomes a problem for them to say to the hunters, "You use my land but I cannot use it."

I have tried to encourage the minister to give consideration to the local people. This article states that some land owners do not wish to have hunters on their property. The only way any hunt can be successful is to have the permission of the land owners; the law says so. But you need the goodwill, and in my opinion we can only achieve that goodwill by giving some rights to the people who live in the area and pay taxes. Surely they should have the opportunity to hunt in their own locality.

I might mention about the Ministry of Natural Resources field that there was concern that there was little mention of it; in fact, I could not find anything in the throne speech pertaining to natural resources.

I would like to express my support for the sports fishing industry in this province. I think we should take a look at the experience Michigan has had and try to follow it in many ways. They have an excellent sports fishing industry, and it adds tremendous financial rewards to the tourism industry and to every other facility connected with the sports fishing industry.

In closing, and I am sure the member speaking next will be pleased, I once again express my disappointment at this government's lack of concrete action in this throne speech. This is a

government that procrastinates and delays, a government that sets up committees, commissions and advisory agencies instead of trying to solve the problem. They study it and hope it will go away. By doing so, they delay taking action.

Parkinson's third law states, "Delay is the deadliest form of denial." So, by this government's delay, our young people are denied proper school facilities, our municipalities are faced with growing environmental problems, our seniors are denied equal access to all services.

1520

This is a government that lusted for power. They lusted for power. They asked the electorate for a majority and they were granted their wish. Having received that mandate, the government drafted a throne speech that ends with this paragraph: "With the goodwill of all members of this Legislature, we will continue to help the people of this province prepare for the 21st century." While it is excellent to prepare for the future, there are many issues that must be faced during the next decade. Surely this government has the responsibility to solve the problems of today as well as to plan for the next century.

I challenge this Liberal Party, with 95 members, to govern wisely and well, in the great tradition of the former Progressive Conservative government, which did so for over 40 years and left a legacy that is the envy of the world. The richest province in all of Canada, a province that is more powerful financially than most of the countries in this world, our province will remain strong only if we have a government that has the courage to govern now, wisely and well.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Morin): The member for Hastings-Peterborough.

Mr. Tatham: Oxford.

The Acting Speaker: I am sorry.

Mr. Tatham: I just have a comment. I believe on the matter of landfill sites, of which I am afraid I have had some experience, the big situation is to be open, to be upfront, to be honest with the people you are dealing with. The problem is primarily one of human relations; it is not a mechanical problem. We can look after the problems; it is a matter of getting along with the people. If the government wants some information on recycling, the township of South-West Oxford has mandatory recycling. It was given an award just a few months ago. I would think that if people wanted to find out about it, they should go down and talk to them and they would help out.

Mr. J. M. Johnson: Just briefly to the member for Oxford, if memory serves me right,

it took him over 10 or 12 years to get his landfill site, at a prohibitive cost, many millions of dollars—\$2 million?—and that is just an example of the problems we are having. It is asinine that we have to go that route.

There is no question in my mind that the day of the sanitary landfill site is over. The farming community will not accept garbage in their area. It is fine to say it is only a site and the garbage is looked after because it is buried; but we do not know what is going to happen 10, 20 or 40 years from now. Containers break down, chemicals start mixing and there can be problems for which our children and our children's children will pay.

If we use incineration or energy-from-waste facilities, it is not incineration in the sense of burning it but simply a safe way of disposing of it. If we can monitor it constantly so we can tell exactly what is happening at any given time, there should not be a problem.

In fact, when I was down in London looking at the facilities there, they told me there are more serious pollution problems in downtown London standing there for an hour and smelling the fumes from the cars than there is from the plant in a week. So we do have the technology; we do not have to bury it, and people are not going to accept it any longer. I simply say to this government, let us set up a pilot project—Wellington would be an ideal spot for it—and see if we cannot make a system that will work, produce energy and solve the problem of waste.

The Acting Speaker: The member for Scarborough Centre.

Mrs. Nicholas: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have had many introductions in my lifetime, and I must say that is one that has given me the greatest honour: "the member for Scarborough Centre." I would like to congratulate you on your temporary appointment to the Speaker's chair. I am sure they are going to change many times while I am speaking, and I will have to keep track of it in case it changes from Mister to Madam. I have noted that some people who do go on in this House for an hour, two hours, two days do have to keep track of that. I hope you will stay for the entire duration of my speech, because it will be somewhat briefer than those of my fellow members.

Mr. McClelland: And that's coming from a marathon swimmer no less.

Mrs. Nicholas: That is right. I am pleased to rise today as the member for Scarborough Centre and to participate in the debate about the speech from the throne. Specifically, I would like to address the effects the initiatives contained in the

speech will have in the area of Scarborough Centre.

As the recently elected member for Scarborough Centre, I would like to express my appreciation to the people for placing their confidence in me, and for the first time in 44 years in a member of the Liberal Party of Ontario. I am deeply honoured to be given the opportunity to represent them at Queen's Park.

Scarborough consists of many people with diverse interests, backgrounds, ages and cultures. It is approximately 30 years ago this month that I moved to Scarborough. At that time there were just farm fields located in our backyard. Now there are subdivisions, and industries are prospering. Scarborough has experienced tremendous growth in this period. It has grown from a township to a borough and now it is a city. I am pleased that I was able to be part of the years of its growth, and that is especially the reason I am proud to represent Scarborough in this great chamber.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the many people who have participated with me in the community over the past 14 years and made it so enjoyable to be involved in community work. In addition, I would like to thank the many workers who helped during the election, knocking on doors, canvassing, telephoning the various constituents, putting up signs—those people who worked relentlessly with a view to being part of the success of my campaign. Some of those people had a great deal of respect for the policies of the party, and to them I say thank you; but, in addition, a lot of these people had never participated in the political process before, and so they had some faith in me and that is why they came out and supported me. I really do want to say thank you to them for their support.

Most of all, without digressing too far, I would like to thank my parents and my new family member, my husband. My parents have supported me throughout my whole life. They are used to upheaving their lifestyle and participating in the many little endeavours that I have undertaken, but my husband can now tell you about the virtues of spending his honeymoon walking the streets of Scarborough Centre. He did it quite well, quite convincingly and very supportively. I am very pleased he was able to participate in the campaign with me in this way.

I want to reiterate in the House the commitment I made on the many doorsteps during the campaign, that I was willing to work as hard as I could in representing the people of Scarborough

Centre at Queen's Park. That is perhaps why I have listened very attentively to the opposition members—of whom we have two here to hear my speech—who have made comments that the government may be somewhat arrogant and complacent now that it has 95 seats.

Mr. Neumann: The opposition members are complacent; they are not here.

Mrs. Nicholas: That is right. What I have found is that a number of us, back-benchers in particular, have tried to say that indeed we are here to work hard. We have constituents as well who have concerns, and they are expressing their concerns to us. We are here to represent them at Queen's Park. Whether you are a member of the opposition or a member of the government, it is your responsibility to represent your constituents, no matter what party or what side of the government you are on.

That is why I am here today to point out that all the initiatives outlined in the speech from the throne are of importance to Scarborough Centre. I would like to highlight three which I think are fundamental to our future. The first is strengthening our environmental protections. The second is strengthening our educational system, with a renewed emphasis on the quality of education and literacy training. Third is the need for continued growth in support services for the elderly.

Maintaining a safe environment is an important initiative to the people of Scarborough Centre. That is why I am especially pleased to see that the speech from the throne pledges to continue to take a strong and forceful approach to protecting our lands, lakes, rivers, beaches and air. The introduction of a number of initiatives to strengthen the government's effort to prevent pollution before it starts and to restore the environment where it has been damaged is welcomed.

1530

As many members may already know, in particular the members from Scarborough who are here with us today, Lake Ontario forms the southern border of Scarborough Centre. I invite all members to visit my riding to see the breathtaking view from and of the Scarborough Bluffs. I know many members have probably heard of the white cliffs of Dover and some of them have even had the opportunity to see them. They have become somewhat famous because of the song. After many years of having a close and long look at the white cliffs of Dover, I can say that after careful consideration, I do consider the Scarborough Bluffs equally as beautiful and breathtak-

ing, so I do encourage members to come and see them some time.

We of Scarborough Centre take pride in our lakefront and scenic view and are pleased to hear the government will encourage the responsible development of our waterfront areas to meet the needs associated with tourism, recreation, heritage preservation and industrial development.

I personally find the issue of water quality to be an integral one. I was pleased to see that at a meeting of the Canadian and US representatives in Toledo this week, they reviewed the Great Lakes water quality agreement of 1978. They are revising it to 1987 standards and what we expect our environment and our water quality to be like. It was a first step indeed, but it was good to see they are moving towards zero discharge into the lakes.

It is only a first step, but indeed it is a great step forward in the negotiations which have gone on concerning the Great Lakes water quality, because it is no longer satisfactory that our water be swimmable, drinkable and fishable; we have to make every effort to ensure that it will be sustainable for generations to come.

On education, I am pleased also to see that the speech from the throne re-emphasizes the government's primary focus of restoring excellence in education and in so doing will involve parents, teachers and administrators in developing new initiatives. The twofold program set out addresses, first, a renewed emphasis on literacy and other basic learning skills to ensure that our children develop the essential foundation for future education and training; and second, the provision of the means to equip our children with the skills, knowledge, creativity and entrepreneurial spirit they will need to meet the challenge of the 21st century.

On the first point, I am pleased to hear the government's commitment to establish new provincial benchmarks in literacy, languages, mathematics, sciences and social studies while promoting literacy training, particularly for special groups, including older workers. The percentage of people who are illiterate in Canada is staggering. For that reason, I think it important that a program will be implemented to increase public awareness about the personal and economic cost of illiteracy and the importance of dealing with this urgent issue.

On the second point, I am pleased we are ready to take on the challenge to ensure not only that our young people are literate and cultured citizens but also that they have the skills

necessary to enable them to lead this province into the 21st century.

Computers and other technologies are indeed the route to the future. It seems like only yesterday when we had an Underwood typewriter and that was thought to be the wave of the future, and I remember only too vividly when the first colour TV came into our home. Now we recognize that it is commonplace for computers to be in most work environments and in some homes, and it is essential that our youth possess the skills necessary to use these new technologies to their fullest capabilities.

Here, I have to express my view that I was a bit concerned with the response of the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. B. Rae) to the speech from the throne, wherein he said we were putting too much emphasis on computers in schools. What I would like to say is that it is very valuable and that the children who perhaps do not have the standard of living that is acceptable to most or who do not have the food on the table to keep their stomachs full are the same children who will not be able to afford a computer in their homes. If we do not respond to their needs by teaching them how to use a computer at school, where else are they going to learn it?

I think this shows that there is a proactive and progressive administration of our educational system. It is an exciting dimension and it will enable us to lead ourselves into the next century and beyond.

In regard to the elderly, in the past two years the government has made great progress in providing community supports which enable senior citizens and disabled persons to live at home in their communities, but with the continued growth of our senior citizen population government assistance must also expand. That is why I am pleased that the speech from the throne emphasized the government's commitment and pledge to continue to strengthen and expand community-based care for senior citizens and disabled persons, including more culturally sensitive services and improved access to transportation.

The strengthening of the integrated homemaker program will assist the large and active seniors community in Scarborough Centre. Seniors make an important and valuable contribution to our community, and I feel it is especially important that we assist seniors to remain in the community and participate fully in community activity. I would like you to know, Mr. Speaker, that the seniors I have spoken to in Scarborough Centre totally agree.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the importance youth plays in our future. There is an ongoing need to continue to stimulate and challenge our youth, which is the future of this province. It is interesting to note that some of the new members around the House right now are younger in years. This is not a new phenomenon, but I do consider myself one of these newer members. As I was saying, this is not a new phenomenon. The member for Brant-Haldimand (Mr. R. F. Nixon) will recount that his father sat in this House at age 28.

The member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway) started sitting in this Legislature at age 24. He is still with us today, and I do not think I will recount how many years he has been here, in case he thinks I am disclosing something he would not otherwise disclose. As an informal representative of youth in the House, I think it is essential for us to encourage the government to continue to give a high priority to youth because, when we challenge our youth we challenge the direction of the future of the province.

It is not my intention to take up too much more of the time of this assembly, but I must at least mention some other initiatives of importance in the throne speech: the establishment of a broad network of support that will allow the disabled to reach their full potential and contribute as much as possible to their ability; the development of a health care system which emphasizes the prevention of illness and disease and the promotion of healthy living habits; a first-time home owner savings plan to assist people to purchase their first home. Many young families in my riding have already expressed their interest in participating in this latter initiative.

In concluding, I would like to say that the speech from the throne is just an overview of the thrust that the government is going to take. There is nothing to stop each and every member in this House from presenting special concerns and special issues that are of interest to a specific riding or to a specific constituent.

In recounting some of the issues that are of concern to the people of Scarborough, we are concerned about the beaches and a healthy environment. Parents are concerned about a quality day care system for their children. The desire for increased funding for our educational system to restore excellence in education is evident. Our seniors want a comprehensive and integral plan for a variety of community-based services. Our disabled want special services to enable them to lead independent and productive

lives. The small business sector wants to continue to grow.

The proposals and initiatives announced in this throne speech, and in the one delivered in April of this year, clearly reflect the concerns and issues that are of interest to the residents of Scarborough Centre. I am pleased that the government is continuing to take on an open, progressive, accessible and activist role. I will use my energy and determination to work with my fellow members to ensure that the strategies outlined in the speech from the throne will be implemented.

I am not ready to just sit and watch. I have never been a very good spectator and I plan to get involved in the processes which will go on in and out of the House. I appreciate the opportunity to represent the constituents in Scarborough Centre in tackling many of the province's most urgent priorities, and I look forward to converting this challenge into achievements.

I want to thank you today, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me the opportunity to speak.

1540

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Speaker, I congratulate you on your elevation to the chair. I trust that you will carry it with equanimity, as I am sure is your intention.

The speech from the throne is a rerun of unfulfilled Liberal announcements and promises over the past two and a half years. We had hoped that the newly elected government would give us more program details and implementation timetables rather than the mishmash that we received in the throne speech debate. It is time to get down to concrete legislative and budgetary programs for this session.

Instead, the speech just gives us nothing but vague objectives. Laced through the speech like silver balls on a Christmas tree is a collection of new Premier's councils, select committees, pilot projects, centres of entrepreneurship and other such embellishments.

In addition, the speech refers to hastily put together Liberal wish legislation, which was brought in just before the election but which died in Orders and Notices when the election was called. These have been resurrected in the throne speech, hopefully with sober-second-thought improvements.

Most of these committees and projects that have been proposed could be regarded as delaying actions to put off the implementation date for many of the promises. New legislative initiatives are few and far between and include a federal reject, the home ownership savings plan,

which was never very successful in encouraging home ownership, which was abused by people who really were not planning to buy a home and which might enable some aspiring home owners in Ontario to put a down payment on a doll's house 10 years hence. An estimated loss of \$500 million in tax revenue is what this useless program will cost us.

I am very disappointed that the speech from the throne did not contain a word about implementation of the government's twice-repeated promise to bring in a publicly funded dental care program for seniors. This promise was made in both the 1985 and 1987 campaigns.

I discovered that the omission was no oversight. When I asked the Minister without Portfolio responsible for senior citizens' affairs (Mrs. Wilson) when she was going to bring to cabinet a timetable for implementation of these promises, she informed me that it was the responsibility of the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan). The same day the Minister of Health announced not a timetable but a stall.

Despite the fact that the Ontario Advisory Council on Senior Citizens had already published a comprehensive study of a dental program for seniors back in 1980 and had updated it in 1984, the Minister of Health has announced more studies. They may not be completed for two or three years; there is no deadline in her announcement.

In the meantime, thousands of seniors will lose their teeth. They are the age group which has the worst dental problems in the whole population. Most dental insurance plans will not cover them. So much for Liberal election promises and their concern for the health and wellbeing of seniors.

I am also disappointed that there is so little in the throne speech that will solve the housing crisis in Metropolitan Toronto and other major cities. The housing policies of the government try to touch all the special needs of groups, like the disabled, the frail elderly, battered wives, ex-mental patients, single people and homeless people, but they forget about the plain, ordinary family, the single parent, or the student who simply cannot afford whatever rental housing is on the market. That field has been neglected or filled with aid to luxury housing and luxury condominiums.

The ordinary citizens, some on low income, some on modest middle income, cannot even dream of home ownership under the present price situation in the Metropolitan area. They have to go miles abroad and add to our urban sprawl in order to find a home they can afford. New

entrants to the market from outside Ontario or new young people ready to leave home are faced with a 0.01 per cent vacancy rate and have to double up or end up in substandard accommodation.

No party which tolerates this situation can call itself a humanitarian party. No party should be considering itself a small-l liberal party when it does not recognize that affordable, decent housing is a human right. The Liberal government is letting too much of our resources go into luxury housing. It is letting too much of our farm land go into housing developments with huge lots which create this urban sprawl I mentioned. That means more expensive services for all of us to pay for and higher transportation costs for everyone.

The predecessor government, the Progressive Conservatives, did much the same thing and stopped building affordable public housing a decade ago. The private sector has not met the need. Too little has gone into nonprofit and co-op housing. We need a party in power which will change our housing priorities, which will see that our resources are allocated on the basis of human need and the right to shelter. Ten thousand homeless in the city of Toronto is a disgrace and 28,000 people on the waiting list for Ontario Housing Corp. indicates the tip of the iceberg as far as need goes. Many do not even apply because they know the waiting lists are so long.

The minister is trying various incentive programs and one of those is the convert-to-rent program which encourages people to take unused space in their homes and convert it to apartments or convert the house into duplexes and triplexes, but I have had disturbing reports about the administration of this program.

One home owner, who had a good seven-foot basement which would be sufficient for a basement apartment if it was within the zoning and who had two rooms on the third floor unused, applied for the subsidy for convert-to-rent. He received a home visit from a representative of the ministry and he was told what sort of alterations he would have to make to comply with the building code and the fire regulations.

He was prepared to make some renovations, as long as they appeared reasonable. Some of the requirements sounded pretty costly for a renovation process rather than an initial construction of a basement apartment. He was told he would have to enclose his furnace and install a steel door. As I understand it, steel doors could cost up to \$5,000. However, even though he was prepared to look into the costs of the require-

ments outlined and probably go ahead if he found them within his means, he was told that there was no guarantee that he would get a grant even after he had done all the renovations. It would still have to be considered along with 100 or maybe 1,000 other applications and the money might run out before his was considered.

1550

This cooled his ardour to contribute to alleviation of the housing shortage very quickly, but he has since learned that some other applicants who had already done most of the conversion work to change a single-family dwelling into a duplex or a triplex without calling on the ministry to come and tell them what requirements should be met, had actually applied for and received grants. Even though the renovations may not have been entirely up to the building code in all details, they could get a committee of adjustment to OK what had been done.

As long as the fire department OK'd it, these people were considered eligible for an immediate grant. It appears that the ministry is so desperate to have some of its projects financed as soon as possible—so that it can show it is spending this money that has been given to it—that it is willing to accept second-class standards from people who have already started the work without consulting them, but has put all sorts of roadblocks in the way of people who are ready to consult them, start from scratch and who would get no guarantee that they will ever get their money back. So I think that program has to be looked at much more carefully.

I do want to spend a little time on free trade. I think the free trade debate is the most important debate of this century. Its outcome will affect the future of Ontario and Canada for the next 50 years. It is difficult to judge the impact of the trade deal put before us by Mr. Mulroney because of its long-term effects and because we do not yet have the final text. There may be further negotiations which may change the text.

We also face world uncertainties in financial markets, arms control and environmental conditions over the next decade or two. However, there is not much doubt about the thrust of the Mulroney-Reagan deal. It is not free trade; it is not an ordinary free trade treaty between two nations. It is a hastily put together deal for the political purposes of Mr. Mulroney and Mr. Reagan. It is the kind of deal which emerges when political objectives take precedence over economics and social effects. It is the kind of deal which emerges when unrealistic deadlines are

set. It is the kind of deal which emerges when the negotiators are unequal in power but desperate for a deal.

There have been a lot of studies of the effects of this proposed trade deal on our economic development, the gains or losses in jobs in different sectors and our own independence both economically and culturally. Unfortunately, many of the studies should be ignored because they are biased or based on unreal premises. The Economic Council of Canada's study, for example, is based on a model of perfect competition which does not really exist. The large multinational corporations approach it from the point of view of how to increase their foothold in Canada. Our financial institutions seek to increase their foothold in the United States.

The free trade deal does not meet the question of what do we gain and what do we lose from this deal. Are we giving up too much?

What we are giving up is crucial to the future of Canada and Ontario. First, we are opening up our whole economy to US takeovers, particularly in the financial field, the energy field and our cultural industries.

Second, we are putting our social programs at risk when we have no definition of what is considered a subsidy which can trigger a US challenge to a Canadian industry's pricing.

Third, we are accepting a considerable shortfall from an adequate dispute settlement mechanism, which all parties had considered was a prerequisite. We are not protected from American protectionist legislation and actions, only from their own laws, which they may or may not change, and whether or not those laws are being observed. We are not protected from nontariff barriers, which have blocked our trade in the past, even when no tariffs were in effect against our goods.

Fourth, we are accepting conditions which will curtail our sovereignty. We are in fact becoming part of a North American economic union. It appears that we may be asked to accept a limiting of our opportunities to distribute Canadian films through the facilities of the film distribution industry, which is largely dominated by American companies.

We are going to be a minority partner in a North American economic union. Our ability to develop our distinctive social programs, our ability to provide economic incentives to industry and our own ability to maintain our culture are all in jeopardy. In addition, hundreds of thousands of jobs will disappear. Women will be the

largest group to lose jobs because of the fields in which a majority of them are employed.

For these reasons, we must stop this deal. I urge all members of this Legislature to join in the battle. I expect a stronger response from the Premier (Mr. Peterson) than we have had to date. I welcome the strong campaign being put on by the Ontario Federation of Labour and its affiliates to alert us to the implications of the Mulroney-Reagan deal. I urge all Ontario residents to make their voices heard in rejecting what is, in effect, a sellout of Canada and Ontario. I urge them to write to their local MPP and MP and send copies to the Prime Minister and the Premier. I think that is the least we can all do to get involved in stopping this deal.

There are two or three other matters I want to deal with. One is the statement by the Treasurer yesterday on the Wilson income tax and other tax proposals, which have not yet been implemented, and on the outlook of the Treasury for the coming few months or a year until the new budget comes in.

In that statement yesterday the Treasurer said that his "staff will continue discussions with federal officials on the proposed national sales tax," which is in those tax reform proposals. The proposal was premised on a possibility of a joint federal-provincial sales tax and possibly an extension of the base to all sorts of things not now covered, but in particular the suggestion was made that it might be applied to food.

I urge the Treasurer to indicate clearly to this House his position on a sales tax on food and to be sure that his staff is well aware of his position. I hope it is one of resolute opposition to such a tax, in view of the widespread concern about the effects of such a tax on seniors and low-income people. In his statement he did say that he thought low-income people would be looked after through some form of adjustment, but he did not specifically state that he was not considering a tax on food as part of the discussions with Mr. Wilson's officials.

1600

He also talked in his statement about adjustments in the corporation tax, but he did not accept the premise that he should be changing the emphasis in this province from reliance on personal income tax to more reliance on corporate income tax. We do have our own Corporations Tax Act, so we are free to adjust our corporation tax in whatever way we want; but in the past few years, under both the Progressive Conservative and the Liberal governments, there has been a decreasing emphasis on corporation

tax and increasing emphasis on personal income tax.

Over the next few years, the Treasurer is going to need \$2.5 billion to implement the promises he made in the election. Where is he going to get this money from?

I say he must get it from a fairer tax system, and that means revising the present tax system and the proportion paid by the corporations, but he is talking about trying to jibe his corporation tax with the federal tax. He is going to jibe his tax with the tax of a Progressive Conservative government which is tied to the big business interests. He is not going to make his tax fit the needs of Ontario and fairness to Ontario taxpayers in both the low-income and the middle-income groups. He is not going to see that the corporations pay a substantially larger share. I think that is something he should be reconsidering when he comes to produce his budget next spring.

There is one other area I wanted to comment on and it relates to health care. The throne speech made a great deal about a new approach to a healthy Ontario, and I certainly support that aim. I support the idea of more preventive care and I support the idea of an extension of services to areas that are not now covered, such as greater provision of wheelchairs and prosthetic appliances to the entire population who may suffer disabilities and need these. At the moment, the Liberal government has simply raised the age limit for supplying prosthetic appliances and so on from 18 to 23. Many more people need wheelchairs and assistance of various kinds. Any one of us could become disabled tomorrow, and most of us would not qualify under that age limit.

In the throne speech it was stated that the government will look at further emphasis on the provision of health care services through health service organizations and community health centres. During the election campaign in August, the Premier pledged to double the number of individuals served by HSOs and CHCs over the next five years.

HSOs and CHCs have been the forgotten children in the Ministry of Health, even though Mr. Grossman, back about six or seven years ago, said he was going to put strong emphasis on this different form of delivery of health services. It is, in effect, a challenge to the dominance of the fee-for-service model in our current health care services.

The statement in the throne speech emphasizing that the government was going to put much more emphasis on this form of delivery would

appear to indicate a conversion on the road to an election, because the Peterson government was not really promoting these facilities to any great extent before that. Has it finally abandoned its policy of lipservice to promoting this more efficient and economical form of health care delivery? Is it ready to make this small challenge to the fee-for-service health model? I hope so and that it will start meeting this target in the next year, not by 1992 when it plans to double the facilities. They are so small now that doubling is not a very big promise.

I hope we will see more action to increase encouragement and assistance to individual physicians who wish to switch to this form of health delivery. I hope the ministry will not just concentrate on developing health service organizations and community health centres in hospitals. It may get somewhat larger numbers of patients covered through this procedure, but it will be neglecting the development of these facilities for physicians in private practice who wish to follow this form of health service delivery. We must provide for increases in the availability of these services both in public hospitals and in private practices in the communities across Ontario. One hopes these facilities will develop and be operated with community-run boards. That is true democracy in the health care system and that is something we should be looking at.

Those are the main things I want to deal with today. There are many other subjects I could cover, but I hope that these ones will at least receive more attention than they have so far in the throne speech.

The Deputy Speaker: Would some members like to comment? If there are no comments, would some member like to speak in the debate?

Mr. Cureatz: I would be delighted to participate in the debate on the speech from the throne. I have had the opportunity of contributing my remarks to these august halls over, I guess, 11 humble years now, and it is always a great privilege and excitement to participate in the very invigorating debate. I appreciate that all my colleagues who are here are no doubt making vigorous notes. I am very confident that later on this evening those members who missed some of my remarks will be reviewing them in bed just before they turn off the lights.

For those members who are not here, I know they will be getting copies of Hansard. Pam, you will ensure everyone gets Hansard. They will be sending it to their colleagues who miss my remarks today and will make sure over the

weekend that they will be reviewing all these words of wisdom so that they will be able to evaluate some of the concerns I have. I know Steve is one of them because he has heard me before. He will work them into his thoughts and concerns and eventually they will form part of the policy of the great government of Ontario, of which we have seen a portion in the speech from the throne.

I would be remiss, of course, not to acknowledge and thank most heartily all the fine people of Durham East who saw fit in their capacity on September 10 to mark their little X beside a particular name so that I might have the opportunity of coming back to these chambers and speaking. I thank not only those individuals who voted for me but all of the constituents of Durham East, because as partisan as we can become at election time, when we are here we are working for one purpose and one purpose only, and that is to represent our particular constituency and, of course, all the people in Ontario.

I know many members are concerned as to where Durham East is. I think it is only appropriate that I refresh all their memories so that they have a better working capacity of the boundaries of Durham East. It is unique in terms of its territory. There was a time with the old Durham East when I had a portion of the city of Oshawa, almost half. It gave me great annoyance from time to time when anyone said, "Mike Breagh, the member for Oshawa, represents the city of Oshawa." That was not the fact. Indeed, I had a good portion of the north end of the city.

As fate would have it, under redistribution that fine portion of the north end of Oshawa has now been taken over by a new Liberal member, the member for the new riding of Durham Centre (Mr. Furlong). If I do say so, rather humbly, he will have large shoes to fill in terms of the representation of that area. We are all looking forward to the kind of impact he will be making in the years to come in representing that great portion of the former riding of Durham East and that area I did not have the opportunity to represent: Whitby.

1610

In any event, the new riding of Durham East, if members can follow these directions, takes in that area of the town of Newcastle. The town of Newcastle is not one little municipality; it is a large area that was instituted by a particular government, in what was then termed regionalization. So we have regional government out there, the region of Durham. It brings to mind, time and time again, how the member for St.

Catharines (Mr. Bradley), now Minister of the Environment, would continually criticize these nasty regional governments when he was over there on the opposition front bench. He would say: "When are they going to be disbanded? When the Liberals form the government, I am going to fix that all up."

Oddly enough, we are now in the third year of a Liberal administration in Ontario and I have not once heard the Minister of the Environment stand up and say: "Remember I used to talk about regional governments all the time? Well, now that I am in cabinet, I am going to do something. I am going to fix up those regional governments. I am going to disband them, as I used to say I would all the time in opposition." He has not said that, and I am waiting with great anticipation for that day when maybe the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Eakins) will stand up and make that announcement in terms of the corrections of regional governments as the then member for St. Catharines, now Minister of the Environment, used to say all the time.

In any event, I have the town of Newcastle, which runs from the east boundary of Oshawa almost to Port Hope, over to my next neighbour, the member for Northumberland (Mrs. Fawcett), who, of course, I congratulate on her election September 10.

My colleagues will find it always pays to be friendly with neighbours, because sometimes a member will need help on particular issues and it is always worth while to have a good working relationship—except at election time, when we becomes enemies again. I even got along with the member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman) from time to time, albeit our ridings are only about 1,000 miles apart.

In any event, it goes north into a particular area I had not represented before, one then represented by the Minister of Municipal Affairs, the member for Victoria-Haliburton (Mr. Eakins), with whom I had got along very well: namely, the township of Manvers. Manvers township is pretty well a rural community with smaller hamlets by the names of Pontypool, Bethany and Janetville. A new addition to my riding is a particular area called the township of Scugog, which runs north from Oshawa and takes in a community better known as Port Perry.

We cannot be remiss by forgetting a portion of the town of Whitby, though everybody is going to think the member for Durham Centre represents the town of Whitby. Actually, I have probably one of the finest areas of the town of Whitby and that is north of Taunton Road. I

know the member for Durham Centre held great grievance when I had to take over that particular area. I guarantee the member that particular area, especially the Cullen Gardens and Miniature Village, a noteworthy tourist attraction for our part of Ontario, will be finely represented by yours truly. I know that in the years to come the member and I will be getting along marvellously well in our concerns for the town of Whitby. I have some remarks in store for us later in terms of some hostile problems we are encountering.

Now that members have a working knowledge of the great riding of Durham East, I want to say to all members present that I once served in the humble capacity of Deputy Speaker—for about four years. I got a working knowledge of various areas of the province and, indeed, of members' particular communities. When you sit in that chair hour after hour, day after day, month after month and, dare I say, year after year, you become familiar with the various problems of Ontario and the various concerns that individual members have for their constituency.

I can appreciate that under redistribution the ridings are not particularly the same, but I assure the members that I have an appreciation of general concerns discussed by members during throne speech debate or budget debate or a question in question period, in which I have yet to see a lot of the newly elected Liberal members participate. I know there will come a time when members will get used to the system, will be standing up vigorously fighting for their particular constituency and with concern for the people of Ontario.

In any event, with some prompting from the back, it behooves me to make a couple of comments to the new members about their role here in the assembly. Not that I want to take on a fatherly figure, but it is interesting to see a different tone set in the assembly. I bet the press notices it a great deal. In the old days of Conservative rule, under the minority government in 1977, when I was elected, and the majority government in 1981, there were still enough opposition members to make the place a little lively in terms of criticism by the opposition, responses by the ministers and support of the ministers by back-benchers, which I had some experience participating in for about eight years in various spots way over there. So I have some feeling and affection for the concerns the members might have sitting in their particular places.

In any event, the point is it is going to take at least a year—who knows?—for those members

who are slower in the system, like the member for Durham Centre, it may take two years—to adjust to the process, and that adjustment can be most devastating. Why can it be devastating? Because, let us face it, all the members have fought very hard to get here. They have worked hard continuously during that election campaign.

Mr. Wildman: Has this anything to do with the throne speech?

Mr. Cureatz: I will say to the member for Algoma, they worked hard in the campaign—you have to be careful—from time to time, people say you have to centre in on the topic at hand, and the topic at hand is the speech from the throne. Of course, the new members all fought vigorously during the election to get elected so they could come here and speak to the speech from the throne. Notice how you have to work that in periodically so you are not called to order and asked to centre in on the issue at hand.

At any event, once new members learn the process in terms of the office, the phones, constituency offices, staff, finding out that all the civil servants actually do not know who they are, they will realize then that all their capabilities in terms of their particular professions, whatever that might have been: lawyers, doctors, businessmen, teachers, whatever the area of expertise—and now they are sitting here quietly wondering what kind of input they can have in the government of Ontario.

I had those same kinds of frustrations as a newly elected member—it seems like yesterday—back in 1977, because back in those days we had the God Emperor running everything here, and he ran it adequately and with a tight fist; it was his show. One would not dare step out of line, not one bit, albeit when I was Deputy Speaker I called him to order from time to time, and that was the end of my political career. It was a lesson well learned for me, I might add. However, time heals.

When you are sitting and evaluating the input that the members have, as I did, I decided the particular front-benchers are running the show. Do not let anyone fool you; they are running it here, the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse. Nowadays you have to call them horsepeople, I guess. There is the Attorney General (Mr. Scott), the Premier and the government House leader (Mr. Conway). Be careful of the House leader; he is the master of intrigue around here, especially for the newly elected members. He can sweet-talk those people into anything and everything and they will walk away happy until another three or four months later when they are

angry again and go and approach him. Who else? How could we forget the Treasurer, the most honoured and respected member in these chambers who has served his riding—

[Applause]

Mr. Cureatz: I admit to that. I give full credit to the Treasurer and his family for the dedication and representation he has made to this province in the years he sat on this side in opposition. Another former great Liberal member, Harry Worton, used to say to him and to other members, "Hang in, Bob, it is a long road." It surely is a long road. Lo and behold, he is now Treasurer and Deputy Premier.

Upon my evaluation, sitting in various spots, way over there and there—I never had the chance of sitting here except in opposition—and some spot over there, I decided in terms of my input, the strategy would be to look after my riding. I was quite impressed—I am sorry she has left—with the newly elected member for Scarborough Centre (Mrs. Nicholas) who defeated a very fine colleague of ours, Bill Davis. Reverend Davis made a very strong contribution to this assembly in his role as critic for Education. Needless to say, we are extremely sorry he was defeated, but we are so pleased that a newly elected member is here, so full of vim and vigour, to take over her particular responsibility.

1620

I was quite impressed when she said: "Well, so there is a huge government. There is a whole pile of newly elected back-benchers. That does not mean that we are not concerned." From time to time, this party over here claims to be the most concerned of all of us, which annoys me to no end; but that is a speech for another day, because we will have lots of days left for long speeches.

In any event, I was quite impressed when she said, "It does not limit us from making representations on behalf of our constituents." Actually, I give her credit. I mean, she came to that within a couple of weeks; it took me a couple of years to figure that out. I said to myself, "Self, my priority is going to be my riding, because those are the people who elect you." If you look after your constituents, be it the birth certificates, because someone has to take a quick trip down to Disney World in Florida on a holiday, and he has to get his passport or something; or workers' compensation; or fixing up the potholes; or changing the lights—it does not matter. The name of the game for me, I decided, was to look after my riding. I have always held that as a priority, because I will tell members, governments can come and governments can go.

It reminds me of law school, when you sat in on your first day and they said, "Now, you take a look at the person to your right and you take a look at the person to your left, because two of you are going to be gone when this is all over." I have news for all of these newly elected members: take a look on each side, and two of them are going to be gone because, as much as I respect the Premier, there is no way he is going to win 95 seats in the next election. There is no way. I will put this question to members: do they think Brian Mulroney is going to win 211 seats in the next election?

Some hon. members: No.

Mr. Cureatz: There; they got it. No, I do not think he is going to win it, either. I do not think the Premier is going to win 95 seats in the next election. Do members know what that means? That means some of them are going to lose, so they had better get ready for that day. We are all happy now, but on election night in 1992, when the votes are coming in, they will be watching the tally coming up and saying to themselves: "I guess that is it for me. There goes my quick political career at Queen's Park."

But they can help stop that. My experience has been that by returning back to look after your particular constituency, making sure you have pleasant staff in your riding office and your Queen's Park office, and even in the event that you cannot get the kind of answer your constituent wants—I mean, they always want a good, positive response—even if you cannot give it, I have found it best to be upfront with them and say: "Look, we just cannot do it. I have done everything humanly possible: I have written letters; I have gone to the minister; I have cried everywhere. I am sorry, we just cannot do it." I have always found that if you take that approach—they will be angry at you, no doubt, that you were not able to do anything, but—

Mr. Mahoney: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I appreciate very much the lesson in how to behave at Queen's Park, in how to be a politician and in how to get re-elected, but I thought we were here to debate the throne speech and I would like to hear some of the member's comments on that speech.

Mr. Cureatz: I am glad the member has brought that to my attention, because the whole aspect of this, as I was saying before, is that members opposite are going to have to work very hard to convince their constituents that this throne speech is the be-all and end-all, because they have a tough position over there now. I have been there. It is easy for me; I am in opposition. I

can say to my constituents: "Those nasty Liberals. It is that big majority government at Queen's Park. Ninety-five people and they have not been able to resolve all these difficulties." When the honourable member from wherever, the member for Prince Edward-Lennox (Mr. MacDonald)—am I close? The member for Mississauga West (Mr. Mahoney), my old home town. I am hurt to the quick to think someone from my own home area of Cooksville has stood up and questioned my integrity in terms of my debating the speech from the throne.

In any event, carrying on with great vigour, I want to say to the member that he is going to have a tough position, because there are some of these aspects, which we are going to be getting to—do not worry, there is lots of time; he can go out for a coffee and come on back, watch me on TV; we will still be here—because he is going to be having constituents call up, and he is going to be frustrated, just like the rest of the members, and they will be demanding: "What about the workers' compensation? Look at the difficulties I am having here." He is going to have them, because I have had them for years, and it is frustrating. We are all going to continue on with those kinds of problems. What is he going to say? "Well, gee whiz, I am just a back-bencher."

But his constituents will not appreciate that. He has been elected to serve them. He has been elected under this new reform government. How did the member for York South (Mr. B. Rae) term it? It is the new Red Army to get this province in action, to get it going in terms of these problems people are having. I tell him that he is not going to be able to resolve them all. He is going to have to sit there quietly and take the abuse from his constituents on behalf of the Premier and the cabinet he is supporting.

I have a way out for some of them on this throne speech, some aspects of which we will be getting into later, about the wine industry, about health, and someone was talking about education earlier. Do not worry; we will be touching base on some of these. But there is a way out and it is something similar to what has taken place in the English parliamentary system. In England—I do not know—they have 850 members of Parliament. It is some horrendous number but they only have 30 or 40 people in cabinet. For the back-benchers in England, they have come up with a neat process.

One hundred or 200 of them get together and they are a really strong lobby group in terms of concerns they have about the direction the government, the Prime Minister, takes from time

to time. You know what? It grieves me no end to think that I should possibly have followed that route in terms of myself and one or two other colleagues who are still in the Conservative caucus. We should have taken that kind of approach to reflect some thoughts and concerns, albeit a little critical of the government. After all, that is what we have been elected for by our constituents, to do the best we can for the people of Ontario. So they have a way out. I am going to give them the secret right now, free; I will not even send them a bill.

The way out is for three or four of them, or nine or 10 of them—they can do it because there are so many of them. It is a great opportunity. If they had only 60 or 70 members they would not get away with it, but they have 95. They are not all going to make the cabinet. It is impossible. The Premier has selected his particular individuals who have been with him for a long time. You have to give those people credit. They hung in when they were in opposition. They fought under dire circumstances over the years. The member for Kitchener-Wilmot (Mr. Sweeney) is one of them. I can remember him asking question after question during question period. The member for Brampton South (Mr. Callahan) blew it. I told him what he should have done to get in cabinet but he did not listen. We will get to him later.

In any event, what they can do to effect some of these aspects of the throne speech is for three or four, or nine or 10 or 15 because there will be safety in numbers, to get together and call their own little meetings.

Mr. Callahan: Are you suggesting a conspiracy?

Mr. Cureatz: Of course, they will then have a big fight about who is going to chair the meetings because that person will have some power and responsibility, but they should bite the bullet on it and make a decision and some of them get together. I will give them a year. They should learn the system. Then after that they will see how the whole show works. Fifteen of them should get together, have their own little group and express some concerns that are not being addressed.

They cannot address all the concerns. There are a lot of problems out there. Do they think they can handle everything at once? They need some guidance and direction. We cannot do it all, as good as we are in opposition. There are a lot of those people. Those people have good ideas in terms of their past experience and they will be able to—

Mr. Callahan: Where are your friends?

Mr. Cureatz: The member is annoying me. He should not get me going on his riding. She is coming back. I gave her all those laurels and now she comes back.

They can get together and draw up a list of concerns of areas where they want some concentration. Then, if they read the rules of procedure of which I have some working familiarity, they will see that they are entitled to what, the member for Scarborough Centre? To ask—

Mr. Callahan: Stand up.

Mr. Cureatz: Stand up. He has done it before but he plays cutesy. He checks with the minister before he asks a question. I am saying that they should sort it out among themselves to stand up in question period during rotation and ask some of those stimulating, inquiring questions of the various ministers about concerns they have because in that way they will be looking not only this way but then they will also have to start looking over their shoulders to see where it is all coming from.

Mind you, the Premier can intimidate them and say: "Listen, this speech from the throne is fantastic. How can you be critical of it? You have to be supportive. Do not ask us any embarrassing questions. Do not get together in a little"—the minister is already looking. He is getting a little nervous. There is sweat on his brow already, thinking of the possibility, the potential that is here for all the newly elected Liberal backbenchers.

It is wonderful what has taken place in the ability they have to perform on behalf of the people of Ontario in these chambers—it is phenomenal—acting in terms of another watchdog of the cabinet, of the executive council, of the administration. How many people is he going to shuffle out of cabinet at a cabinet shuffle? The next shuffle is when? A year and a half or two years? Five or six people may go.

1630

Listen, there were some nice fellows who were in cabinet: the member for Kingston and The Islands, with whom I got along very well when I was critic; the member for Parkdale (Mr. Ruprecht) and the member for London North (Mr. Van Horne). The member for London North and I were elected together. We served on many committees, travelled all around the country, and he did a good job in that ministry.

It is a tough business. The Premier had to make some pretty rough decisions, so boop, away they go. There goes their political career in terms of

cabinet, but that is not to say they cannot perform a worthwhile function here in the House in terms of representation of their constituency and maybe getting together with all the newly elected individuals.

Let us take a critical look at what is happening in the front bench because the speech from the throne, as we have heard already from a few of my colleagues and the official opposition, is not the be-all and end-all of this first parliamentary term. That is for sure. There is going to be lots more to come. We already saw the signs.

The Treasurer gave us the signal. What was the signal? The stock market. I almost ran into the guardrail when I heard that. I said, "Bob, I cannot believe you are saying that." He indicated that because of the crash of the stock market there may be some aspects of the speech from the throne that will not be able to be fulfilled.

I want to say something to the member whom I did interrupt the other day and I feel a little bad about that; but on the other hand, he was just grating my skin when he was talking about the wine industry. I believe he beat my colleague Peter Partington, a great member from the Niagara Peninsula. I heard about that particular member's campaign. Apparently it was great. He had signs everywhere. He blew the whole bundle on signs, I guess.

Lo and behold, I could just hear the debate during the campaign, the old throne speech already. The debate was: "We have got to elect Liberals. We need the Premier to stand up to that free trade pact. We have to have someone to stop Mulroney." I bet one or two members right here said the same thing. Hands up! Who said during the election "We have got to stop Mulroney"? I hear some laughter over there. I know they all said that; there is no doubt in my mind.

During my all-candidates debate, the Liberal candidate said the same thing—Diane Hamre, a very fine candidate, I might add—but, lo and behold, after she was through with that, I brought to everyone's attention that it amazes me how in terms of federal jurisdiction she thinks the Premier of Ontario is going to have so much to say about it.

I give credit to the Leader of the Opposition who indicated that he would rather have his 18 and a half members elected—

Mr. Wildman: What do you mean, 18 and a half?

Mr. Cureatz: Sorry, 19. I was just testing to see if the member was awake. He would rather have them elected on credibility than on a fraud perpetrated by the Premier running all over the

place saying he is going to stop the free trade agreement.

Now he is telling us, gee, wait, maybe he does not have the power; and that may be the bottom line. I saw it on television too one night at 11 o'clock on the news. There he was banging his fist and talking about the bottom line. I said, "Oh, boy, here we go; the bottom line."

I do not know where Larry was on that one either.

Interjection.

Mr. Cureatz: Where is Larry now? Poor Larry left this humble chamber at whatever the salary we are getting to a humble, I heard, \$100,000 or \$200,000 a year. I do not know who the winner or loser was on that one.

In any event, I want to say that in terms of free trade, I can remember the member for Niagara Falls (Mr. Kerrio) last week standing up and talking about representing his constituents and talking about the free trade agreement and I did interrupt him, but I waited until right near the end of his speech to allow him the opportunity of a little more time to respond to some of my concerns. Of course, after rotation he has only two minutes, so I thought I was doing him a favour. In any event, I was interrupting him and I apologize for that.

On the other hand, I was awfully frustrated. I do not envy the members from Niagara. The member for Lincoln (Mr. Pelissero) is one of them here. He beat Phil Andrewes, the great Conservative from down in that area. I can imagine those members running around the Niagara Peninsula saying: "We have to protect the grape growers. We have to protect the wine industry. How are we going to do that? We have to make sure that we have a large majority Liberal government at Queen's Park. We have to make sure about the bottom line. We have to make sure that the free trade pact does not go through."

Here we are, they are elected and now the Premier is waffling a little bit, walking the fence a little bit. We know he is walking the fence: and why is he doing that? He does not have the power particularly, plus he is a little cautious. The Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Mr. Kwinter) said that what is good for Ontario is good for the rest of Canada, and suddenly we heard from some other Premiers across Canada being critical of what Ontario is saying. Why is the Premier sensitive to that? Ask me why.

Mr. Velshi: Why?

Mr. Cureatz: Why? You see, he wants to know.

Because he wants to keep his options open. There might be a possibility of running federally. The Premier is very good; he speaks French; there is always that possibility.

Listen, I can remember back in the Davis years when Bill Davis was thinking of running federally. Was he; was he not? Remember the statement, "I have no plans that have plans that...no plans"—I can never repeat it.

In any event, I bet dollars to doughnuts his administration, his cabinet members, were very cautious in their speeches not to alienate other parts of Canada in the event that the then Premier would want to run federally, to keep his options open.

The same thing is happening here, the games within games, the wheels within wheels, and the Premier wants to make sure he does not annoy too many people all across the country about fat-cat Ontario.

That goes back to the members from the Niagara Peninsula. They are going to have a big job, a very big job, of meeting with their constituents in their riding offices, listening to them on the telephone, meeting them with the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell), who I am sure would be more than pleased to meet with the representatives from that area and talk about the concerns, talk about the possibilities of what is going to take place to the wine industry; but lo and behold, shrugging their shoulders and saying, "It's those nasty, nasty federal Conservatives who are bringing this agreement and we can't do much about it."

Their constituents are going to go back, scratching their heads like that and saying: "Gee whiz, I sort of had the feeling during the campaign that these Liberal members from our area were going to really fight, that they were going to have some power. If we put a large-majority Liberal government into Queen's Park, it is going to stop that free trade agreement. They were going to protect the wine industry and the grape growers in the Niagara Peninsula."

It is not going to happen, and as a result, at the next election they just might be in some trouble in terms of the credibility they are going to have when they say: "Elect me and we are going to do such-and-such. We are going to do all these aspects under the speech from the throne." Those constituents are going to say: "Gee, wait a minute. We heard that about the free trade agreement and how we're going to stop it, and the bottom line; and nothing happened."

We had a great debate and we set up a committee in the Legislature. We will go around

the province and maybe tour the country to have input and concerns, but the bottom line is going to be that there is not going to be much taking place from the Premier's office or his administration in terms of that free trade agreement.

Mind you, he is going to have a lot of help. If you have not noticed, the *Toronto Star* certainly has been bringing it to everybody's attention day after day on the front page, and I had the opportunity of listening to the CBC radio show *Morningside*, with Peter Gzowski, who has a very informative show from time to time. He had two editors on, one from the *Globe and Mail* and one from the *Toronto Star*, about their positions on free trade. I have forgotten the gentlemen's names, but it was just last week, we all can look them up if we want to.

One of the editorial writers said, "We are against the free trade agreement, and don't forget, the Premier of Ontario got this huge mandate to stop it."

On the other hand, as we all well know, the *Toronto Star* certainly gave him some assistance during that campaign. Day after day it was pretty tough for the humble little member in Durham East to compete with the coloured front page of the Premier of Ontario flipping flapjacks and indicating this is a great campaign that he is having.

On the other hand, the *Globe and Mail*, in terms of its editorial comments, is taking the other side—which I guess we have all seen here—in praise of the free trade pact.

I suppose both papers are performing their particular function in at least creating interest, bringing people's attention to the particular topic and discussing the free trade issue, as has been discussed in the speech from the throne.

But I am advising a lot of the newly elected Liberal back-benchers that they are going to have a tough job when the Premier is not able to produce on a lot of these things; as the official opposition as well as my colleagues have been bringing to our attention too. Why do one or two of them not at least jump up in caucus and express some of their thoughts and concerns about the Premier and the power that he and his administration have in terms of the free trade agreement, and particularly the wine makers and the grape growers down in the Niagara Peninsula?

1640

Mr. Faubert: We already have.

Mr. Cureatz: They already have. Let us see the action. Where are we with it? The only consolation is that we have a committee.

Speaking of committees, I noticed the Minister of Energy (Mr. Wong) was here earlier. I do not know whether he is listening or not. We have got some thoughts and concerns about the to-be-appointed select committee on energy. I have been on every select committee on energy that has been appointed. Did we have one in 1975? I do not really remember. I do not know. There was certainly one in 1977 and in 1981, and now we are going to have another select committee on energy.

That is great, because we do have some problems in terms of electrical capacity in Ontario, particularly, as is of some interest to me, with the Darlington generating station. My understanding is that it will be the world's largest nuclear station. It will have eight units, whereas Pickering has four.

The newly elected member for Durham West (Mrs. Stoner) is giving me that little critical eye and saying, "Do not take claim to all the large nuclear power stations." With all due respect to my colleague from Durham West, she is going to have difficulty with the speech from the throne in terms of that select committee on energy, because her fame has gone before her. I know her capacity and her capabilities of being critical about environmental issues. What is she going to do now?

She is in the government and she is a back-bencher. The new Minister of Energy is over there. He is going to have to toe the line a little bit. After all, we all need electricity to flick on the switch and to power our industries, General Motors and Chrysler. Is she now going to be suddenly critical of Ontario Hydro and the Ministry of Energy? Is she going to be standing up? Maybe she will be. Maybe she will be one of the 10 or 15 of the members who, as I suggested, get back together. If she is, good for her. She will be doing her job in terms of representing her constituents.

The other area that was brought out in the speech from the throne was the conflict-of-interest legislation which is a very interesting and serious development for all of us here. All of the members are new and maybe have not had their attention—with all due respect to the Minister of Health and the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney)—focused on this particular piece of legislation. Do they know what happens? They will get in the caucus, they will sit there politely, listen to the oldtimers talk away and they are not sure whether they should stand up or say anything.

They might look foolish or they might look intimidated. In that case, they have not really focused on these aspects of this legislation. I got the feeling that the administration has brought this out first so that a lot of the newly elected people who have got capabilities far superior in some areas than myself would not be focusing on the legislation and saying: "Wait a minute. There are a couple of things here that I feel uncomfortable about as an individual, as a member of Ontario and as a newly elected representative. Gee whiz, I do not think I like that."

But the Premier and House leader know that if they can get this thing through now, the members will not be in the position to ask questions ahead of time. It will be over and done with by the time the members get their act together here, feel comfortable and get around to looking at the legislation. Some of the agenda, of course, will be coming from the speech from the throne. The agenda will be on to other things, it will be long gone and they will be left without having their concerns addressed.

Let us just take a look at a couple of serious concerns that I think the members should give their attention to. My understanding, from looking at all the reviews, is that the area of senior civil servants has been left out in terms of conflict of interest. I do not know now. My understanding is that a lot of them make a heck of a lot more money than all of us here in the assembly. If it is the case that some of those top, senior civil servants are being left out—and they are recognized in terms of their qualifications through the particular remuneration of their position—then there just could be a possibility that they might have a conflict of interest in terms of what is taking place vis-à-vis their position and what will be happening with various aspects of contracts or decision-making processes. That is an area of concern we should be taking a look at.

How about one other area that maybe is a little sensitive, but I want to bring it to the members' attention. They should think about this for the next few days. I am not in that kind of position, but I have heard rumours that there are one or two Liberals who are in that kind of position. What kind of position is that? That is maybe having, in terms of monetary wealth, an accumulation of property, stocks and bonds, etc. I give full credit to them in terms of their individual careers and their standard of living.

We are living in a turmoil-tossed world. It grieves me to no end to see in the *Toronto Star*, well publicized and brought to our attention, what is happening in terms of a young child in

Spain whose kidnappers are demanding a large ransom.

I do not know; do we close our eyes to that or do we focus in on what might happen here in Canada, in Ontario? We cannot stop all those things that are happening. In terms of our own difficulties, we have seen what has taken place with the Air India crash and those kinds of possibilities that do take place in a country, albeit as great as it is.

It seems to me that just maybe a private member should have the opportunity of revealing his assets and his accumulated wealth to the commissioner. That is fine, I have no problems with that. But in terms of making it public, in terms of releasing it for all to see, I have some hesitations about that.

I think the private member, which most members here are, should have an option if the Premier calls up the private member and says, "I would like you to become a member of the executive council," or "I would like you to become a parliamentary assistant." If the member acknowledges yes, the condition is that the member's financial status would be made public for all to see.

By the same token, he would have the option of saying, "No, in terms of the possibilities of somebody reviewing all my financial assets and somebody saying, 'Gee whiz.'" As well, in the turmoil of the world we live in, there is a family to centre in on. It may leave some private individuals in a very uncomfortable position. I am concerned about that for all of us as members.

The Minister of Health is shaking her head. I do not know; we will wait and see. I am saying that the private member should at least be allowed the option. If they want to join cabinet, if they want to be a parliamentary assistant, they reveal their financial status. But if they do not, they make that conscious decision: "Premier, thank you. In terms of my particular status, I feel great representing the constituents of my riding, but in terms of revealing all my monetary worth, I just feel a little uncomfortable about that and I will take the option of remaining a private member."

I wish some of the Liberal private members would consider that in terms of the legislation that is being brought forward, in terms of taking a second, quiet look at it and not letting the front bench there intimidate them by telling them that this has to be passed right away. It does not have to be passed right away. We can take a look at it. We can review it. The Attorney General can bring in the various aspects and concerns and

maybe address some of them to make us all—and I mean all of the Liberal members here—feel a little more comfortable about that particular piece of legislation.

The throne speech had some other interesting areas that I want to bring to the members' attention in terms of my commitment to individuals here. Of course, that is about energy, the select committee on energy. Actually, it is going to fall in the category of another famous select committee which we had around here, the select committee on company law. The select committee on company law, if I remember, sat here for about 14 years under a particular person by the name of Allan Lawrence, a former Attorney General, who is, coincidentally enough, my federal member out in my area in Durham. Whenever that committee was struck, in the 1960s, it carried on for 15 or 20 years and a lot of productive, good work came out of that committee.

Now we have a similar committee carrying on, the select committee on energy. What are we are going to do with energy? We should be taking a look at the electrical capacity of this province up until the year 2000. I am going to be looking with great interest, because of course the former select committee on energy said that Darlington, the generating station in my riding, should be completed, of which I was fully supportive. Some 7,000 or 8,000 men and women are working there, having a large impact, both financial and social, in my riding.

I will be curious, because under that report it said there should be no further nuclear stations built until the year 2000. We all realize the strong economic growth Ontario has had over the last couple of years. There just might be a forecast that we are going to be needing some more electricity. Heaven forbid. We are going to have to look for some alternative plants to produce electricity. Lo and behold, we might have to be looking at nuclear power again or hydro power or—do I shudder?—thermal power and all the ramifications all those particular stations produce, be it nuclear and how do we dispose of the waste, or be it thermal and what do we do with the ash going up to the sky and the acid rain.

Do not forget, and I say to my colleagues in the opposition who have been great proponents of hydro power, what about the environmental impact that takes place in terms of damming up rivers and creeks and flooding large areas to get a head of water to turn the turbine?

I actually congratulate the government because from time to time I have heard my colleagues in opposition, and they do get a little critical and nasty, but far be it from me to continue on in that frame of mind all the time. I give the government credit for focusing in on a very important area of this province, and that is the continuation of electricity in Ontario and which way we are going to go. I am looking forward and I hope I have the opportunity of serving on that committee so that my valuable experience—

Am I boring the member for Etobicoke-Rexdale (Mr. Philip)? Is this getting a little—

Mr. Philip: No.

Mr. Cureatz: I will try to get some enthusiasm back. I know how we can do that.

In terms of the throne speech, of course, we talked about health care, and I am glad the Minister of Health is here. We will not centre in on some of the crucial issues that are taking place today but more the local issues and the monetary commitment that has been made to the expansion of the Bowmanville Memorial Hospital, for which we are patiently waiting for funds. I know they will be forthcoming because I can see she is nodding her head in agreement, and we appreciate that very much. I know I can report back. We are not getting partisan now, are we? Do I have to go back—the minister wants the floor; I can see this.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I just wanted to note to the member opposite that I do have a habit of nodding my head when I am paying attention, as opposed to when I am affirming or agreeing. It should not be misinterpreted.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Offer): So noted.

Mr. Cureatz: It did not sound like a point of order to me, Mr. Speaker.

We are looking with great interest to when the cheque will be forthcoming so we can make the expansion at the Bowmanville hospital. But of course, there is another particular hospital in my area. This is a good one; do not miss this one. There is another one in our area, where the hospital is not located, but I do have some impact representing the north end of the city of Oshawa, and the honourable member, my new colleague the member for Durham Centre, I am sure, has brought this to the minister's attention.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: He is a fine member.

Mr. Cureatz: I agree totally. The minister should have seen the picture of him last week in the *Whitby Review*. He was standing up at a

podium like this, holding on for dear life, and the headline said, "After Two Months at Queen's Park I Am Totally Frustrated. I cannot get any answers on why the Whitby Hospital is not getting the required bed capacity that should be allocated to it."

I thought, there is my new elected back-bencher of the Liberal government finally getting a degree of frustration from the Liberal front bench, and I can only say to the honourable minister that I do hope she will evaluate the difficulty that we have there. The minister has a big portfolio, about a third of the budget of Ontario. We do not expect her to wave the magic wand tomorrow to get that resolved, but we do hope she allows the member for Durham Centre the opportunity of coming in with his delegation to meet with her so that she might listen to their concerns, as was brought forth in the speech from the throne, about commitment to health care, and if not tomorrow—

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: The nodding is that I am now acknowledging and will be pleased to meet with them at the earliest opportunity.

Mr. Cureatz: That is good; and over the fullness of time maybe those issues will be addressed, and I will say to the member for Durham Centre, if he is really keen, he will get a copy of Hansard tomorrow and he can send it off to the press and say, "You see, the minister has made a commitment in the House, and do not worry, we will be looking after our difficulties, albeit if not within a short span of time, we know in the fullness of time and for sure before the next election."

In any event, we have also had, in terms of the speech from the throne, some comments about highway construction across Ontario. Interestingly enough, as much as I have got along with the Minister of Transportation, he has promised me a meeting since September 10, almost every day, with some concerned constituents about the construction of Highway 115-35 through the town of Newcastle; and of course I can only remind the minister that in the speech from the throne there was acknowledgement about highway construction.

The minister, as fine a gentleman as he is, has yet to oblige me with the meeting, because there is a particular overpass at the junction of Highways 115 and 35 in which some concerned citizens and constituents of mine are saying that they are causing another problem of a left-hand turn, over which I took a lot of criticism back in the early years of 1977 and 1978 for putting up a barrier median down the middle. I stuck to my

guns and said we needed it, and now it appears the ministry is going ahead with a particular left hand-turn, which counters all the safety aspects of what we have been working on.

In any event, strangely enough, I have had another concern from the township of Scugog about the possibility of the placement of stoplight on Highway 7A in the Port Perry area. It is just as well that we did not have the meeting, because now I can continue with the township of Scugog's concerns about the stoplight. We are still looking forward to the meeting and the commitment of the speech from the throne about transportation across Ontario.

The concerns about beer and wine in the grocery store were highly touted before the last election. There was great debate. The member for Mississauga North (Mr. Offer) is shaking his head. I do not know where he was; I thought there was a lot of interest and concern.

In any event, in terms of the speech from the throne, I do not quite remember. Members can help me with this. Is there some little sentence in here about beer and wine in the grocery store and the continued Liberal commitment? I will tell members there is not.

Mr. Philip: No.

Mr. Cureatz: OK, thank you.

Mr. Philip: I read it five times, and it was not there any time.

Mr. Cureatz: It was not there. I read it only once. I give the member for Etobicoke-Rexdale credit, because he has to read things five times until it sinks in. I can understand that.

In any event, there was a commitment about the Liberal administration coming closer to the people. I ran across a concern to the residents in the former village of Orono. Now we are all in the town of Newcastle.

We were able to get a liquor store in the village of Orono, that small community. It has been very helpful to local businessmen, because people come in and buy their wine, spirits or beer and they may also do some other shopping at the local bake shop or the local electrical shop, Orono Electric.

Do you know what has happened? The staff of the Liquor Control Board of Ontario has decided the store should be moved out of the little village. These are nuts-and-bolts concerns that some members are going to get. The staff has decided to move the store out of the village and put it closer to the major highway so that people driving up and down the highway can see where the liquor store is, albeit it is going to be a little difficult to get to.

I am not a member of the board. They probably have people running around studying all these things and have decided that was the best place for it to go. By the same token, I must confess I was a little disappointed, a little disheartened. As the representative of the area for the last number of years— and I have been here four terms now; this is the first term for some of the members—I would have thought I would have had just a little say, a little consideration from the board, a little phone call saying: “Sam, listen, we are thinking about doing this. Maybe we should have a little meeting with your business people. We can discuss this, look at alternatives to make sure the impact on the business community is not as great as it might be. After all, we have worked along with our businesses in various communities across Ontario, with business improvement area grants in improving them and working in conjunction with the government in putting liquor stores in their downtown areas to attract business.”

I did not get the call. I was not informed, and that was a little bit annoying. I am not being overly critical of the staff. I am saying some consideration of that nature would have been helpful, because we now have a concern of the businesses there about the possibility of losing a fair bit of traffic in the little community.

With that in mind, I know the minister responsible will be looking forward to a letter from me asking for a little meeting with himself and my constituents and the staff from the LCBO so that maybe we can work out some other alternative.

Remember, the speech from the throne said that this government is going to get closer to the people. I know the minister will be very obliging in getting closer to the people and will provide me with an audience so that we can resolve some of these difficulties.

Time is going on and there are so many other aspects I would like to touch base on. Just a couple more, and then I know that, with great sadness and crocodile tears in all your eyes, I will have to sit down.

I do want to comment on an interesting aspect that is taking place—and I see that my colleague the member for Northumberland has left already— because I have to give another speech tonight, at 7:30, to the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority about a concern that some of us have about 9,000 acres of forest down in our area of Durham East in the riding of Northumberland. Of course, it works in with the speech from the

throne about “all of our concerns about conservation across Ontario.”

The authority had public hearings, albeit during August and September, when I was slightly preoccupied with another occupation: getting myself elected. It had public hearings and the authority had come up with and almost passed a recommendation of, among other things, allowing motorized vehicles in the forests on the east and west portions and not allowing any kind of movement of that kind whatsoever in the centre portion.

1700

I am not a member of the authority. They have staff to relate to them some of their thoughts and concerns about this new direction, but I am going to be saying to them tonight, as I have discussed with the minister, that this kind of approach, I think, should be looked at by ministry staff, by people who can compare what other authorities are doing, because I just have a little fear that the Ganaraska conservation authority staff are saying, in terms of the 9,000 acres of forest that they have: “Jeepers, it’s an awful lot of property. We don’t have the staff to control it. We’re going to relieve ourselves of a lot of the acreage. We’re going to look to volunteer groups to patrol the forest and wash our hands of it.”

I think, in terms of the growth that is taking place in our particular part of the province, east from Metro, that kind of hands-off approach is not the way we should be going. I am going to be bringing that to the conservation authority’s attention and reminding them about my discussion on the speech from the throne in terms of the Liberal administration’s commitment to conservation in Ontario.

Speaking of conservation, my colleague the member for Wellington (Mr. J. M. Johnson) indicated he talked about dumpsites and the concerns that I think a lot of us are going to be having. My colleague the member for Durham West, who defeated a fine member, the Conservative member for Durham West, George Ashe, in the last election, has had some notoriety out in the region of Durham. I do not think she was that vocal, was she, over the Toronto dump proposal about moving things into Pickering? I do not know, I did not hear her.

Interjection.

Mr. Cureatz: Maybe she was. OK, that is fine; good for her. I am glad she was. These are areas that she and I are going to have to work on, because out my way, in the area of Newtonville, the region of Durham is talking about expanding a large dumpsite. I am going to be looking with

great interest at whether the Minister of the Environment is going to short-circuit the Environmental Assessment Act in terms of allowing that expansion to proceed or is going to not intervene and let that whole process unfold as it should.

In any event, we have four years to talk about those kinds of problems that have hit all of us now. It is interesting how the dumpsite situation has come upon us like a load of garbage, there is no doubt about it. It is going to be an issue that is going to affect all of us, either for those of us who are in communities where landfill sites are located or for those members who are representing large urban areas and whose constituents are trying to get rid of the garbage.

The GO train cannot go without being mentioned, I say to the member for Durham Centre and the member for Durham West. We only bring this to attention in terms of the speech from the throne because there was very little lipservice paid outside of the fact of looking at an overall policy of transportation in the greater Metropolitan Toronto area. It is going to affect the member for Scarborough Centre, because I am sure a lot of her constituents in the south end are jumping on the GO train at the station down there and coming into Toronto, while there are a lot of people in the region of Durham who want to jump on the same GO train. There are a lot of them who want it expanded, and if they jump on it first, that means her constituents are not going to have a seat to sit in.

That is good that they are going to take a look at the overall transportation aspects around Metro Toronto. I am glad the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh) is here now, because he too, I believe, has been a great proponent of the expansion of the GO train to the city of Oshawa. I can only say to the member for Oshawa, we are looking with great anticipation of the actual day. He and I will have a pact to get on the first train at the station at the east end of Oshawa when it leaves and comes into Toronto, which I am sure will be before the next election, because if I recall, there is a great picture of the Minister of Transportation mulling that very fact over as he is walking down the unattended GO train tracks, and Mayor Pilkey is disappointed after failing to gain a GO promise from the minister. But we are very confident that in the fullness of time, and before the next election, it will be chugging along. We will be reminding the minister, of course, of his commitment to ensuring that would take place.

I have a couple of final comments so that I can remind my honourable colleague here, who will be up in a minute. That is in terms of my role as critic of two ministries, the Ministry of the Solicitor General and the Ministry of Correctional Services.

I can say to both ministers, of course, congratulations on their appointments.

I have had the opportunity of being critic of the Ministry of Correctional Services over the last year and am looking forward to investigating some concerns that I have. It is a difficult ministry in terms of positive approaches, but there is one area on which I have yet to get any response, and that is the report of the various panel investigative groups. There are panels that investigate our institutions, and they give reports to the minister. I hounded the former minister, the member for Kingston and The Islands, whom I also congratulate for doing a remarkable job during the last two and a half years in holding down two portfolios. I did not receive those panel inspection reports from him, but I will be pursuing this matter with the new minister.

I congratulate the newly appointed Solicitor General (Mrs. Smith) on her unique appointment, the first female member in that portfolio. I think it is very innovative on the part of the Premier. Good for him. It is a nice sign to see him doing that, and I congratulate him, because I do not see one reason in the world why she should not be in that position and directing a different aspect. Traditionally, lawyers have been in that position, but lawyers get bogged down in blinders, and I think she will look at things a little differently, maybe in terms of her past business experience.

Among other areas I want to bring to the attention of the minister, I have been reviewing over the last three or four months, maybe longer, some criticism by our court system of our police officers in the field, about the manner in which they have been approaching people who have to be arrested or interrogated. It seems to be something a little different: the courts intervening and being very critical of our police. I only ask the minister— and I will again bring it to her attention in question period when I have that opportunity—for the assurance from her and her ministry that our police officers, as good a job as they do under very trying and difficult circumstances, should be reminded and their memory refreshed about the responsibility they have to all people in Ontario when they approach and administer their very important position in the law.

With that, with the administration, I would only bring to the attention of the Attorney General the concern I have that, now that there is a large majority government, in terms of having an impact and not the yoke of the New Democratic Party—

By the way, to the member for Etobicoke-Lakeshore (Mrs. Grier): she has a very fine son out in Port Hope, with whom we had some conversation during the election. He was very confident the member was going to win, and I said I was sure she would too, and she did.

Mrs. Grier: As a journalist, he is nonpartisan.

Mr. Cureatz: Funny—he said he was canvassing for the member on that particular Saturday, though I guess that is nonpartisan.

I say to the Attorney General that now is his opportunity to approach his cabinet colleagues and the Treasurer and remind them about the new report that is coming out, in terms of what will be taking place in the administration of justice and the lack of funding for that office in the past while. Maybe former Conservative administrations under—should I bite my tongue?—Roy McMurtry should be criticized a little bit, looking at our crown attorneys and the lack of remuneration they have been getting in comparison to what, say, defence lawyers in the private sector are getting. There was a large announcement made lately about a number of crown attorneys who have left because of the long hours and lack of recognition. These are concerns that do not necessarily affect all of our constituents, but from time to time members will be getting letters and inquiries about various aspects of the administration of justice. It is a very delicate area, and it really falls on the shoulders of the Attorney General. We will be looking forward to him coming up with some positive aspects to assure us that his ministry will now be given the attention it may not have been given over the last two or three years.

With those few words, Mr. Speaker, and congratulating you on your appointment—I always forget and I must remind everyone here that members are under the new system of television. We forget about that quite often, but there is a whole staff of people on the third floor, I think, in cubicles, directing cameras and pushing buttons, and I bet from time to time it gets a little boring for them listening to us drone on—

Mrs. Grier: Not when you are speaking.

Mr. Cureatz: Not at all? Only when the member for Oshawa is speaking is it not boring, I guess.

Mr. Breagh: I went in and gave them some No-Doz.

Mr. Cureatz: The member did? Okay. In any event, we congratulate them for persevering now and in the years to come, and of course we congratulate our translators in the booth. Again, that is very innovative. That came in under the reform system of the minority government, when the New Democratic Party supported the Liberals, and I have to confess—even I have to admit—there were some good aspects that evolved from that short two-year term, one of which is the much better hours. New members do not have any idea of the tediousness of sitting here to 10:30 at night going on and on.

1710

Interjections.

Mr. Cureatz: Some of them do? Maybe they do.

Mr. Breagh: They are getting the flavour of it now.

Mr. Cureatz: That is right, but at least they only have to sit to 6:30; before, it was 10:30. They can leave and have dinner and not worry about coming back.

I can only add that there will come a point in time when we will have to have a colour commentator in conjunction with television. When people across Ontario tune in the TV, they will be watching me drone on at great length about my concerns in Durham East and the speech from the throne, or any one of the members can also continue on with his concerns, and they just might not grasp what is taking place.

Maybe we should hire Bob Fisher from CBC or Rosemary Speirs. They can sit in and be colour commentators, advising all the people across Ontario what is taking place from time to time in the assembly, to bring people's attention closer to what is happening in terms of their parliament and their government in the province.

In terms of my very short remarks, we are of course looking forward to participating again, in what I guess will be the budget debate. I know a lot of these problems will be resolved, the Whitby hospital, the junction of Highways 115 and 35. The GO train might even come out to Oshawa. With that in mind, I will take my place.

Mrs. Stoner: It is with great pleasure that I rise to comment on the long speech of my colleague the member for Durham East. I appreciate his advertising, both today and the other day. For those members who did not see the advertising he was referring to, the photos of the

Premier flipping flapjacks on the front page of the Toronto Star, anybody who lived in Durham East had the opportunity to see the Premier on the brochures of my friend the member for Durham East.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: Your friend from Durham East had the Premier in his brochures?

Mrs. Stoner: He certainly did. A very nice picture, too, I must say. The Premier is so handsome.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: Was Larry in his brochure?

Mrs. Stoner: Very nice brochure.

Anyhow, I appreciate the opportunity to speak in response to his comments, and particularly to his comments on energy, because I am very pleased and applaud the revitalization of the select committee on energy. It is of crucial importance, particularly now, with the free trade commitment of the federal Tories on energy, which is frankly frightening to me and, I am sure, to a large number of thinking members in this House in its implications.

I would also like to comment that in matters of environment and waste management, the Minister of the Environment has done more in two years than the Tory governments of the last 40-odd years in resolving some of the problems in waste management. I am sure that we, through the initiatives of the speech from the throne, will do even more in that direction. I thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity to comment.

Mr. Furlong: I would like to address some remarks to my colleague the member for Durham East and let him know that I appreciate the time he has spent in serving the residents of the north part of Oshawa. I assure him that I will continue to serve those residents and those constituents, and I hope better than he did. There was always a criticism of the member that he was not around in the House, he was not here, he was not making any speeches. He has made up for it today. He spoke long enough today on issues not really pertaining to the throne speech, but none the less, he was entertaining.

Because he has made a comment with respect to my frustrations in this place, I want to assure him that the comments were made on the basis of how I felt over the first couple of months here, in that I am used to having things done a little more quickly than they are done here and I was expressing that in the statement he attributed to me.

I can assure him that I have had discussions with the Minister of Health and she has agreed to

meet with the hospital board. That will be done as soon as possible, and I am sure he will want to join with me to make sure that the constituents in his part of Whitby are also well served.

Mr. Elliot: I, too, would like to make a few comments with respect to the speech we just heard. Since I have been about 16 years in hard work to assume a place in this House, I really would like to invoke something I always promised myself. That was that the first time I rose in this House, I would pay someone a compliment. It gives me a great deal of pleasure to pay a compliment to the member for Durham East on the length of his speech.

The other thing I would like to compliment him on is that I was reading some of the regulations in the standing orders as the speech was going on and at one point I almost rose on a point of order. Section 19(d)1 says if someone speaks twice to a question, he can be called on a point of order, and the second time the member mentioned the speech from the throne, I thought I should call him on a point of order. He did go on and mention it four times before the end of his speech.

Seriously, the compliment comes with respect to the advice offered to rookies in the House like myself, because towards the end of his speech he did highlight two things that directly affect my riding of Halton North. One pertains to garbage and the other pertains to the extension of the GO train. I would certainly welcome at any time if the member for Durham East spent the amount of time he spent today in this House talking about that kind of pointed concern that we, as back-benchers on this side of the House, are just as concerned about as he is.

It does give me a great deal of pleasure at this time to accept some advice from an experienced member. I hope we hear much more of that from the other side.

Mr. Philip: The member's speech reminded me a little bit of my desk at the moment, but since he did compliment the Deputy Speaker, I take that as one really sensible comment. He also complimented Harry Worton who taught me how to be re-elected over and over again. Harry's advice was very useful; it was a little more precise and certainly a lot more concise than what the member for Durham East gave.

Since he is a former Deputy Speaker, I wonder if he has any suggestions to the new Deputy Speaker on whether there should be a Speaker's panel, what should that consist of and how we can involve more members in the processes of the

House. No doubt he will have some comments on that.

Mr. Daigler: The lengthy and rather rambling nature of the member's talk will probably preclude many of us from speaking. We have been looking forward to this privileged opportunity to address the assembly on the occasion of the throne speech. Given the member's long political experience, I would like to ask him whether he considers this a fair approach and in the best interest of letting all members participate in the political process.

Mr. Cureatz: I have a humble response of two minutes. The former opposition member, now government House leader, before he went on his trip to China, went on for days on end. This is the parliamentary process that we have become accustomed to. As opposition members, we are critical of what is taking place on the front bench because this is the only forum that we have to be heard.

We cannot go running off as a minister and give out quick press releases or little kudos to the press gallery in terms of what is going to be happening with new announcements. Our forum is here and I, as an opposition member, albeit as far as I am from the Speaker, will perform that function to the best of my capacity available, I say to the House leader, notwithstanding other previous conversations.

I do want to say, however, to all members, especially to the member for Durham West, that in terms of my comments from time to time, I know they will take it in the good thrust of the debate because, albeit most comments are very seldom personal in here in terms of an individual's credibility or integrity, by the same token we do have a function to perform, a long parliamentary heritage of opposition in government. I will be performing that function not as critically as some of my colleagues here because I do not believe in lambasting everybody all the time. One can come up with good points from time to time, too.

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I want to conclude. I am glad the member for Durham West (Mrs. Stoner) told everyone about the picture on my pamphlet. Actually, it was a wonderful picture of the Premier and me in my newsletter, which coincidentally enough came out just before the election. One of the senior citizens in my area wanted me to get a picture in recognition of the fine contribution that the new Liberal administration was giving to seniors, and I thought, since as members recall, no one knew who the Premier was for the longest time, it

would be incumbent upon me to share with the fine constituents of Durham East a picture of myself and the Premier so that they would become more familiar with who he is.

Mr. Henderson: I must say that to follow the member for Durham East is, in terms of style, something of a difficult act to follow; in terms of content, I do not expect to encounter quite so much difficulty.

I notice that most of the participants in this throne speech debate have begun by congratulating quite a large number of people. I do not wish to be seen as uncharitable or remiss in that regard so I will begin by congratulating you, Mr. Speaker, on your re-election and on your elevation to the chair that you currently occupy, and congratulate also all the re-elected or newly elected members who are currently here assembled.

I wish to speak in a serious vein and add my own words of praise for the fine throne speech that we heard just a few weeks ago. I do believe this government has shown great commitment in meeting its campaign promises. Certainly, we did that in 1985, and I know we are going to do it again in 1987 and in the years that follow.

I want to address in a little more detail two subjects of the throne speech that are very important to me, namely, the Meech Lake constitutional agreement and the recent trade pact between Canada and the United States.

His Honour indicates that the Meech Lake accord is before the Parliament of Canada and provincial legislatures, and the select committee on constitutional reform, that is, our select committee, will consider the accord and related matters. I would like the committee to do that, knowing of my own personal views about this subject.

I am one of those who believes the Meech Lake accord to be a worrisome document which contains provisions that may have unfortunate consequences for our future in Canada and Ontario. It is far too important a matter, I believe, to simply be rubber-stamped by legislatures in the provinces.

This Meech Lake accord proposes to end Quebec's estrangement from the Canadian Constitution. Its supporters believe the hope of that accomplishment outweighs whatever defects the agreement may contain. I am not persuaded that is indeed so, however much I do believe—and I do—the full participation of Quebec in Canada to be desirable; but I simply believe that we should hold the applause and the fireworks until we get a better kind of agreement.

The contents of the Meech Lake accord by now are common knowledge. Provinces can opt out of certain cost-shared programs and still get their share of federal money if they create programs compatible with the national objectives.

Francophone Canadians will predominate in Quebec's distinct society. Anglophone Canadians will be centred elsewhere. The distinctiveness of the Quebec-based distinct society will not override multicultural or aboriginal rights. The fate of other rights is left unstated.

Provinces will nominate appointees to the Senate and to the Supreme Court and provinces will have a veto over certain kinds of future changes, including the creation of new provinces and reform of the Canadian Senate.

Critics of this accord, and I must count myself among them, consider it carves in stone an obsolete notion of Quebec. I cannot favour the ensconcing in our Constitution of two Canadas or of two separate kinds of Canadians. I fear the power accorded to the provinces in this deal may pave the way for future separatist governments in Quebec or elsewhere.

I seek instead a Canada sufficiently flexible and tolerant to provide a happy home for anglophones and francophones throughout. Especially, I worry about intruding provinces in federal matters like the appointment of senators and justices and I do not support the notion of a provincial veto on future changes of federal institutions.

I worry that the Meech Lake accord, if implemented, may emasculate the government in Ottawa that stands for all Canadians. After all, why should Canada's Prime Minister be constrained to appoint senators and justices from lists submitted by provincial Premiers? Do we make federal patronage any better by involving Premiers in its dispensing?

Do we build a stronger Canada by insisting that senatorial or Supreme Court hopefuls scramble to curry favour in the offices of their respective Premiers instead of simply standing on their records before the people and the government of Canada? A future separatist government in Quebec or elsewhere could and likely would submit only the names of nominees who embrace its separatist ideals. That surely is not in the best interests of Canada.

Do we create a stronger Canada by courting a situation wherein a Prime Minister of one political persuasion could be held to ransom over Senate and Supreme Court appointments by Premiers of different political colours? Imagine a

Prime Minister of Canada constrained to appoint justices and senators only of opposing political viewpoints. Having a Prime Minister in Canada of a political party that holds power in no provincial capital is by no means an imaginary scenario in Canada.

Most Canadians find federal patronage wanton and distasteful. Let us not multiply that tenfold. Provinces right now can send all the names they want to Ottawa for patronage appointments. Ottawa freely selects from those provincial lists by choice but has never been constrained to do so.

Real reform of the Senate and Supreme Court for those postings may well be overdue but let us get on with that meaningful reform. Let us not tinker in the meantime. How likely is real reform if we begin by giving every province a veto over future changes in our federal institutions?

What hope do territories have of ever becoming provinces if any one province, including one with half of one per cent of Canada's population, can veto that occurrence? As a provincial MPP, I represent about as many Canadians as the Premier of Prince Edward Island. My constituents are informed, intelligent people, but none of them, nor I on their behalf, would ever stake a claim to a veto over future changes in Canadian institutions. I should not have such authority. The Premier of Prince Edward Island should not have such authority. In my opinion, no provincial Premier should.

According to Meech Lake, any province opting out of federal programs gets its share of federal funds if it carries on a program compatible with the national objectives. Provinces certainly hold the trump cards on that hand. Objectives, it seems to me, are rarely what is at issue in these federal-provincial differences. Almost always we agree about objectives.

During last year's Bill 94 debate, no one challenged the objectives of universality and accessibility. We all believe in these things. The arguments were about means, not about objectives, and only one means seemed likely to garner federal funds under the Canada Health Act. That was what the dispute was all about. An agreement like Meech Lake could have made a major difference, even caused the worm to turn.

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This word "compatible" clouds the issue even further. Objectives that are quite different can still be quite compatible. Legislating English in Manitoba may be quite compatible with legislating French in Quebec, and both are quite compatible with the national objective of linguis-

tic enrichment. "Compatible with the national objectives" surely simply clouds the issue.

Here is the issue baldly stated: Should a province have the power in a federal state to opt out of federal programs and get the money anyway? Should a province have the power to choose the better side of any issue? Should Canada be balkanized into a community of provinces that take whatever portion of the federal pie they wish?

What is meant by "a distinct society"? Every province in Canada contains many distinct societies, each with customs, rights and perhaps privileges never before enshrined in any constitution here. Few of those distinct societies are recognized by law, much less recognized in our federal Constitution, nor need they be. Should the United Empire Loyalists have been enshrined as a distinct society in Upper Canada?

One hears it said that the francophone culture, an oasis in North America, is threatened with assimilation or extinction without a constitutional propping-up. I do not think so, and it seems to me that the idea is highly patronizing to Quebecers. Jews and, for that matter, Catholics and Protestants are distinct societies which have felt threatened with assimilation on occasion, yet they thrive with no special status in any constitution here.

Far from showing a decline, the French culture of Canada shows great vigour and new enrichment with every passing year, as well it should. Significantly, it is not just in Quebec that French is strong and becoming stronger but also—thanks in part to linguistic and cultural initiatives in the French networks of CBC radio and TV—in virtually every province of our nation. Bravo. Let that growth continue, but we do not need distinct societies in our Constitution. Such an idea may well pave the way for a return to a francophone Quebec and an otherwise anglophone Canada.

Moreover, in my view, there are real risks in this "distinct society" provision. Quebec's Bill 101 could be defended by a government so inclined on the grounds that English-speaking store signs would undermine Quebec's right to promote its own distinct francophone society. Manitobans who argue for bilingual services could meet an argument that French is now ensconced in the distinct society of Canada's French-speaking province and that Canadians elsewhere should speak English. Quebec could argue for extended power in language-related fields like culture and communications.

By the terms of Meech Lake, culture and aboriginal rights must be shored up against this "distinct society" provision and, not surprisingly, a host of other groups can and do argue for a comparable shoring up of their own legitimate rights and freedoms because to define and protect one set of rights in a constitution arguably excludes or weakens certain other rights. Carry that to its conclusion and we will have a tedious list of rights and freedoms that must be guaranteed against Quebec's "distinct society" provision.

I really do believe that we must ask our first ministers to take Meech Lake back to the drawing board, or else we in Ontario should think of suitable amendments. Those amendments, in my opinion, should be along the following lines and cover the following points:

Canada's Prime Minister may consult with provincial governments in the appointment of senators and Supreme Court justices. In fact, that is exactly what happens and what Prime Ministers often choose to do right now.

Our notion of federal and provincial jurisdictions must be sharpened, and barring very special circumstances, provinces which want the federal money must join the federal program. We cannot have it both ways.

Let us drop the notion, constitutionally at least, of a distinct society in any province. Canada has many distinct societies, some francophone, some anglophone and some neither.

Let us defend the cultural and linguistic rights and distinctions of all our provinces, and if any part of the accord threatens people's rights enough to invite remedy, let us shore up all the rights and freedoms guaranteed under the charter. Let us veto this notion of provincial veto, which surely has little place in a modern federal state.

The Meech Lake accord is flawed, in my opinion, and I urge that we put it right before the flaws get carved in stone. Meech Lake must be amended or revised. In my opinion, it needs time and real debate in Canada's elected assemblies; rubber-stamping by the Legislatures just will not do.

The second topic I wish to address in a little detail is the proposed trade agreement between Canada and the United States. On behalf of the government, His Honour indicates that by this agreement Canada has given up far more than it has gained. His Honour goes on to say that "the agreement does not achieve...security of access to US markets," "does not provide a means of shielding Canadian exporters from restrictive US

trade practices” and “contains concessions that will seriously compromise Canada’s sovereign ability to shape its own political and economic agenda.”

It is true that we have in this freer trade deal an imperfect, even flawed agreement, but the principle of free trade, and freer trade, between nations is a good one and in the best traditions of liberalism. I worry at the consequences of too global a rejection, even of a flawed document, lest we throw away the baby with the bath water.

We will make a decision on this deal when we see its final terms, but let us keep alive and well, and let us emphasize, the principles of freer trade among our trading partners. That, after all, is what got Canada into the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade in the first place.

Canadians in general are confused about free trade. They are nervous about their sovereignty and unsure about the economics of the deal. But emotionality surely is not the order of the day, especially in the wake of Black Monday, the October 19 partial replay of the market crash of 1929.

Inflation, recession, interest rates, the value of the dollar and budgetary and trade deficits show parallels between 1987 and 1929, and a severe recession soon is at least a possibility. Not only investors in the market are hurt by market sensitivities; losses from pension plans, mutual funds and insurance companies will take their toll as well on ordinary Canadians who willy-nilly depend directly on the market’s help.

We Canadians point an accusing finger at the US for its tariffs or threatened tariffs on softwood lumber, potash and cedar shakes and shingles. Certainly Canada, a smaller power than our neighbour, must be on guard in its relationship with a friendly neighbour that can convulse us with a stifled sneeze. Yet we Canadians are not blameless in this matter of protectionism.

We have favoured ourselves in our distribution of our energy resources through the national energy program. Through grain freight subsidies, we have subsidized Canadian businesses and farmers who compete with American suppliers. Through our Department of Regional Economic Expansion, we have supported regions of high unemployment and marginal competitiveness. Through our Foreign Investment Review Agency, we have watchdogged US firms that wanted to establish new businesses in Canada and monitored US takeovers of foreign companies. We have defended Canada’s publishing industry and cultural industries, and banks and

trusts and insurance companies, all against American competitors.

These measures were worthy and useful, but protectionist they surely were. Our discrimination in favour of Canadians and against Americans, though quite possibly justified, was blatant. I am sure our protectionism did not go unnoticed.

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Canadians in recent decades have rightly insisted on the ownership of our industry and resources. We have been successful in our measures to achieve that, but in doing so have almost certainly paid the tradeoff of some lessening of US flow of capital into Canada. Canadians now own a much greater share of our industries and resources, but attendant on that has been a consolidation of trade between Canada and our US markets that has been crucial to continued economic growth in Canada.

We guaranteed our sovereignty and our right of ownership, but we became very much indeed dependent on our US markets for continued economic health of what we own, and to our credit we at the same time forged important trade links with the countries of the Pacific Rim and with the nations of Europe and Asia. In no sense do I see these two objectives as mutually exclusive. Canadians can trade heavily with Americans and still develop trade links elsewhere, just as indeed the European nations forged the common market but continued to trade heavily with North America and elsewhere.

For whatever reason, the Americans have decided that the time has come to guard their turf, and Reisman and Mulroney struck a deal with the Americans which hopes to get us special treatment and exemption from US tariffs, countervail and antidumping. But why should we Canadians, whose stance has been protectionist for decades, expect Americans to shelter us from their protectionism unless they see a return for them in so doing. The question for Canadians is, how much special status and at what price? We cannot surely have our cake and eat it too.

We can learn, I believe, from a thumbnail history of Canada-US free trade. In 1891, federal Liberals campaigned on a platform of unrestricted free trade and lost the election by a narrow margin, while the US rebuffed free trade proposals from Canada and maintained protectionist high-tariff policies.

In 1911, US President Howard Taft reversed the US stand and negotiated with Wilfrid Laurier a limited free trade pact covering tariffs on many manufactured products. The US Congress passed

the enabling legislation, but the Ottawa Tories blocked it, and Laurier was defeated because Canadians feared that free trade would lead to political annexation.

Shortly after the Great Depression, Canada's Tory Prime Minister Bennett pledged internationalism to reduce Canadian dependence on the US economy and in 1932 hosted the Imperial economic conference as a partial forerunner of GATT. In 1934, Canada-US trade negotiations resumed. Shortly thereafter Liberal Prime Minister Mackenzie King concluded a Canada-US trade agreement and signed a second and broader agreement in 1938 leading to further reductions in tariffs.

A 1940 meeting between President Roosevelt and Mackenzie King in Ogdensburg provided more means of close economic ties between us and the Americans.

In the 1950s, Canadian leaders turned to multilateral trade arrangements such as GATT in an effort to avoid making trade concessions to the US. However, in the mid-1960s Canada and the US signed the auto pact which created for manufacturers a conditional free trade zone for motor vehicles and parts produced in Canada.

I have provided that thumbnail sketch to illustrate the to and fro of Canada-US freer trade and to illustrate that historically Canadian Liberals have favoured free trade and Canadian Tories have sometimes balked. Indeed, Canadian Prime Minister Bennett's pledge in the early 1930s to blast a way into world markets and to reduce Canadian dependence on the US economy calls to mind in some respects the current position of this government.

Let us examine once again the six requirements—and I will do this briefly—we set out as necessary ingredients of a freer trade agreement. Each of them is arguable, none of them is fully met, yet each is partly met. In this imperfect world of compromises, that is not surprising.

First, we wanted a binding dispute-settling mechanism to arbitrate disputes. We got that but we got a compromise, because the Americans insisted that the tribunal not have power to override the laws of the United States Congress.

Did we expect it otherwise? What country would be willing to give a foreign state an equal voice in overriding the laws of its own legislative processes? Would we? Remember, this is a bilateral agreement. For either country to agree to submit to the tribunal is tantamount to agreeing *ante facto* to partial subservience to the political will of a trading partner. Surely the best we could

hope for was some mechanism to ensure that both countries administer their laws in a fair and equitable way.

Both Washington and Ottawa retained the right to enact the legislation they see fit and both, therefore, have incentive to commit themselves to periodic renewal of the terms of freer trade if the deal is going to work. Either side can back out wholly or in part any time it wants, with notice, risking of course the other side's retaliation. Imperfect, perhaps disappointing in some ways, but also understandable.

Second, Canada's cultural industries must not be compromised nor weakened. Yet Canadian culture surely is not today the fragile child it may once have been. Canadian journalism, Canadian broadcasting and television, Canadian film making and theatre, and Canadian artists and performers in many fields have surely come of age. Do we Canadians still require an array of protectionist measures to strengthen what is valuable to us in our culture?

Would individual Canadians and Canadian entrepreneurial spirit not be able to invigorate those parts of our culture that we feel to be our own? The issue now for Canadians is not, "How much Canadian culture from our government?" but rather, "How much Canadian government does our culture need?"

Third, the auto pact must not be gutted. In fact, by the terms of this agreement, nationalism in the auto pact does give way to continentalism at a price of freer trade. Canada's capacity to seduce foreign auto makers to provide us jobs may be curtailed. Foreign car makers will not be able to bring cars to Canada duty-free provided Canadian parts are used to make them. The auto pact's largess will not extend to foreign makers that put assembly plants on Canadian soil. That is a loss. Perhaps, as well, we bent the auto pact a little from its original intent. Was it ever meant to cover Japanese and European makers?

Fourth, regional disparity subsidies are not to be disturbed, nor should they be. But the greater flow of US capital, and thereby jobs, into Canada may counterbalance whatever partial losses we sustain in regional disparity initiatives. May not the agreement strengthen the hand of Canadian suppliers who bid on US aerospace and other government contracts?

Fifth, Canadians must continue to screen foreign investment entering Canada. By the terms of this agreement, we look for greater flow of US capital to Canada. For that, we relinquish, a little, our control of what it buys, and we would rather not have to do that. By this agreement, US

companies can set up business here in Canada and US companies can take over foreign firms even if their Canadian subsidiaries may be affected. We still can intervene when US firms attempt to buy up larger Canadian corporations.

That may be less control than we would like, but it is largely what has been happening in any case since 1984, since the Foreign Investment Review Agency has moved backstage.

Sixth, we must maintain our ability to safeguard Canada's farmers and agricultural industry. Canadian farmers lose their transportation subsidies on grain exported to the US by the terms of this accord, but the percentage of Canadian grain crossing the border is small, so the impact may not be great nationwide.

1750

Ontario grape growers and wineries may be hurt unless we are smart enough to devise a way to prevent it. Can Ontario ingenuity not do that? What about finding ways other than discriminatory price markups to make sure that Ontario's wine industry will thrive, and a few Ontario wineries—Hillebrand Estates I understand is one—are confident and unconcerned.

Finally, as an overriding issue, Canadian sovereignty and culture must not be compromised by this agreement. But is it? Nothing in this pact allows Americans to vote in Canada's elections. Nothing gives the US Congress greater play in the Canadian governmental process and nothing makes the US President any more to us than a hopefully friendly leader of a foreign power.

In Europe, where the common market has been in place for decades, I do not see much lessening of a Belgian sense of being Belgian or a German sense of being German or a Frenchman's pride in France. I see little lessening of sovereignty following a relaxation of international protectionism and little lessening of the capacity of European countries to trade abroad with us.

The province of Canada traditionally most nervous about its culture and its sovereignty has been Quebec, yet Quebec supports this freer trade accord because it is used to having to guard its own sovereignty and culture and looks to a trade agreement for economic, not cultural advantage. That is as it should be. If threat to sovereignty is mainly what we worry about in this agreement, we can surely draw some comfort from our growing maturity as a nation. Canada in 1987 is not a fragile child.

There are some other facets of this deal that cause me some concern. The first is the matter of our energy resources. I worry at the prospect of

unchecked marketing of nonrenewable energy supplies. If we cannot improve the clauses of this agreement to deal with energy, we will have to get a great deal smarter in our exploitation of renewable energy supplies. By the terms of this agreement, we promise to let the Americans have the benefit of price advantages that we claim ourselves and we promise to ration them and us pro rata on an equal basis. That, it seems to me, may pose some problems.

A second and perhaps the most important aspect of this deal for me that gives me pause is the absence of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade from these bilateral arrangements. To be sure, the GATT is sometimes troublesome; slow, riddled with complex politics, at times unwieldy. To be sure as well, we theoretically at least can proceed bilaterally with the Americans right now and broaden the ingredients of the deal in some GATT-sanctioned, multilateral trade treaty later. But our European, Asian and Pacific Rim trade partners are important to us. To have negotiated this deal through the GATT would have signalled our good faith to the world community and shown the error of those who are tempted in any case to regard Canada as an economic appendage of the United States.

Like R. B. Bennett in the early 1930s, I worry just a little about what we signal to the world in proceeding bilaterally with the Americans outside the protective framework of the GATT. The recent GATT ruling against our discriminatory pricing and distribution in support of Canadian wineries and breweries and against our fish-exporting policies may foreshadow other complications of the bilateral route to trade exemptions and special status.

There is more in this agreement to be criticized. Government procurement policies, our access to US aerospace and state government purchases in electronics and communications fields receive too little attention. Little is said of assistance to be provided to industries or workers dislocated or disadvantaged by the deal. That shortfall can still be remedied of course.

The dispute-settling mechanism precludes rather than complements the World Trade Council in Geneva. It also is weaker than I would have liked although we can be hopeful that accumulated case law will help and that a foreshortened ruling time and five- rather than one-member arbitration will prove expeditious and more consistent.

Access to the vast US market may not be guaranteed, but still, the deal may take some worthwhile steps in the right direction. All in all,

it is an imperfect deal with some risks and some shortfalls which ought to be corrected, but I do not favour trade barriers between states. They help the rich stay richer and the poor stay poorer.

I favour steps towards freer trade, preferably multinational in scope, and preferably through the GATT, as Canada comes of age and seeks to expand its niche in the world community, but as we strive for internationalism, it behoves us to remember that 70 per cent of our trade is with the US. That trade relationship is a precious one, albeit one needing healthy and strong counterbalance.

None of us has seen the final draft of the freer trade accord. The Premier's recent proposal for a six-month moratorium on its final draft has merit, but whenever the final version comes, it will be worth our careful and objective scrutiny. Emotionality is not the order of the day, especially in the light of recent market meltdown and investor panic. Little in this deal is likely to be carved in stone. Canadian and US legislators can legislate against whatever parts of the accord they cannot find ways to live with. If that happens, will we be worse off than we were before? The major long-term risk, in my opinion, is that we will have paid too great a price for proceeding outside the GATT, but Canadians will have to relinquish Canadian protectionism just a little if freer trade of any sort is going to work.

We are strong enough, in my opinion, to do that. We can preserve our culture and our sovereignty, for Canadians have never shown a deficit of patriotism. Our patriotic fervour, though strong, is of a quieter sort, that we reach down for and find with little difficulty when occasions warrant. Let us look to freer trade for its economic value and let us remember that our trading partners will no more trade away their trump cards than will we. There is certainly a place in international affairs for trust with reasonable safeguards.

Like Laurier and King and many other Liberals past and present, I believe in liberalized and freer trade among all the trading nations of the world. If this deal is yet imperfect, and I believe it is, let us none the less urge our standing committee on finance and economic affairs to avoid a hasty or closed-minded rejection of its ideals and aims, that is, the ideals and aims of this accord. Let us remember the GATT and think of all our trading partners as well as the Americans.

I have spoken very frankly on these two matters. The Premier called for a wholesome debate, and debate cannot be wholesome unless

debaters speak their minds. Honourable members who have attended, as I have, the performance in Toronto of Gilbert and Sullivan's HMS Pinafore have been reminded of Sir Joseph Porter's famous words. He said, and I quote:

I always voted at my party's call,
and I never thought of thinking for myself at all.
I thought so little, they rewarded me
by making me the ruler of the Queen's navy.

Ontario has no navy, but certainly for me personally as a private member, Porter's approach to legislative debate is not even thinkable.

This assembly also has rejected that rather truncated version of Porter's so-called party discipline. By a nearly unanimous margin, we passed in January this year my resolution affirming that private members should exercise independent judgement consistent with loyalty to their party's principles in making known their views on public matters.

The principle of a strong central government for Canada and the principle of freeing up the trade arrangements between nations, especially between ourselves and the Americans, have ample precedent in Canadian Liberalism and in Canadian politics generally. Representative democracy can surely only work if members of our elected assemblies are free to speak in a thoughtful, reasoned and rational way on the important issues of our day.

In that spirit of openness, I have attempted to contribute a little to debate on two important issues touched on in this throne speech which face the future of our province and our nation.

Mr. Speaker: As it is close to six of the clock, and some members may wish to make comments or questions on the previous speaker's speech, I wonder if the member would like to adjourn the debate.

On motion by Mr. Henderson, the debate was adjourned.

1800

Mr. Speaker: We do have an adjournment of debate, but does the minister have any brief words for the House?

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Mr. Conway: I would like to indicate the business of the House for the coming week.

On Monday, November 23, we will continue hearing members' contributions to the debate on the speech from the throne.

On Tuesday, November 24, by agreement of the House leaders, the throne speech debate will conclude. The time between 4:15 p.m. and 5:45

p.m. will be shared equally, with the vote to be held at 5:45 p.m. Any period of time left between the end of routine proceedings and 4:15 p.m. on Tuesday will be spent on the normal rotation of speakers on the throne speech.

On Wednesday, November 25, the interim supply motion standing on the Orders and Notices paper in the name of the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) will be debated.

On Thursday, November 26, the morning will be devoted to private members' ballot items standing in the names of the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere (Mr. Faubert) and the member for Sault Ste. Marie (Mr. Morin-Strom). In the afternoon we will continue, if needed, with the interim supply motion, followed by, as time permits, second reading of Bill 11, the Ontario Loan Act.

There may be additions to this order of business following the usual consultations among the House leaders.

Mr. Speaker: Pursuant to standing order 30, the question that this House do now adjourn is deemed to have been made.

RENTAL ACCOMMODATION

Mr. Speaker: The member for Markham gave notice yesterday of his dissatisfaction with the answer to a question given by the Minister of Housing. Therefore, the member has up to five minutes to debate this matter and the minister has up to five minutes to reply.

Mr. Cousens: I think all of us have a great concern about what is happening in Ontario with regard to housing and the need to respond to the great requirement for more units of affordable housing this province must provide.

I have asked a number of questions of the Minister of Housing and on a previous occasion, when I had hoped to come back and obtain further insight into what she was thinking or not thinking, doing or not doing, she unfortunately spent the first part of her answer to my first question yesterday just talking about that as if I had other things that were more important.

I would like to just go back half a moment and make the minister realize there was an etiquette that took place in my telling her I would not be able to be present for this special debate after the House closed so that her time could be respected as well. As it turns out now, when I put in the request, it was last Wednesday and then the House had the throne speech debate on Thursday and then on Monday. I had not thought it was going to go till Tuesday; I had other meetings in the riding. Rather than bring the minister back

and not have someone here to discuss it, those things took precedence at that time.

I thought it was somewhat poor-mannered of her to concentrate the first part of her question on something that generally has been handled in a very different way by members of this House when they respect each other in the process of doing their job.

In spite of the fact that she is not doing the job I would like her to do as minister, I still have great respect for her as a person. I think that underlines everything we are trying to do in this House. We have a great responsibility.

During the election in August, the one that ended on September 10, there was an advertisement in the Toronto papers that indicated the Liberal Party was going to create 102,000 affordable rental units by 1989: a very significant commitment, a commitment I will not allow this minister or this government to forget. But we have been looking for some sign, some indication of where they are going to be and when they are going to be started so this minister can fulfil the promise of the government. Part of that has to do with the 12,000 housing units that are purported to be developed over the next five years on government-owned lands.

There is a great deal of concern expressed by the people who live in Scarborough, by the people who live in Markham, by the people who are concerned about the Rouge Valley. Is that land targetted for development? Is that part of the land that this minister wants to take over? We know there is land in Metropolitan Toronto, but there has been a strong statement made by Scarborough council, a vote of 16 to one in fact, where they said: "Protect it. Defend it. It is irreplaceable; you're not going to get another piece of land like it. We have done it with the Niagara Escarpment. Do not do to the Rouge Valley what so often has happened when you develop land that is otherwise irreplaceable."

So I was looking for some signal from this minister that she could stand up and say with a sense of confidence: "That is not where we're going to build. In fact, I understand the pleas and the plight of the people of Scarborough and that is not where we're going to go into it."

In order to lead into that, I asked two questions. I know the Speaker likes to keep it to one question during question period, but I do admit that it was a double-barrelled question. I was asking the minister, and she can spend her time in the five minutes any way she wants—she has been spending it any way she wants anyway—but I would like to see her answer the

question. Will the minister inform this House what consultation she has had with local municipalities and in which municipalities she intends to erect these units?

I am interested in knowing, has she talked to any municipalities about government-owned lands? As the Minister of Housing, she can say, "Oh well, that's Government Services" and it is someone else's responsibility, but none the less, through her, conversations begin.

Does she have any idea where the 102,000 will go, or the 12,000 in particular? Can she tell us which municipalities she has on her agenda? Who are the targets? Some of them may want great places developed, but Scarborough does not want the Rouge Valley developed.

If she can give us an idea, then we are going to know where it is going to be ending up; and then maybe she can give us some idea really—she has 12,000 units, part of the 102,000—where is she going to build them?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I am glad to acknowledge that the member for Markham did indeed inform me before the last late show that he would not be attending, and I am particularly glad to see him here today.

During the last few weeks, as Minister of Housing, it has been made abundantly clear to me that some people in this House are looking to me for a quick fix. Let me say that they are looking to the wrong person. As Minister of Housing, I know I face a tremendous challenge, one which I embrace with vigour and determination. But I am not here to play games, I am here to work hard and to deliver.

I plan to push aggressively forward in our fight for affordable housing. Every person in this province deserves decent shelter, and by decent shelter I mean properly maintained buildings; affordable buildings, whatever the income level; and secure in the sense that a tenant will not have to fear being evicted.

Under this government that is not a new commitment. It is a commitment which has been demonstrated clearly and strongly many times since 1985. Let me remind the member of that. On paper, we call it the assured housing program.

More important, in dollar terms it represents \$645 million committed. More important than that, it means that people of modest means will not be locked out in the cold. Decent housing should not be a privilege, it should be a right, and in Ontario we will provide that housing.

This is a far-reaching strategy, because this is a complex world and we do have problems. In this

province we are both blessed and cursed. As our economy booms, our housing situation suffers. The changes are palpable. Our cities have become burgeoning urban centres, centres of opportunity for tens of thousands of people to better their lives. In spite of the fact that so many are not able to find decent affordable housing, they continue to come and they will continue to come in droves. This is the reality, and it is also a disturbing one, but it is a reality that this government is prepared to deal with.

We are going to find ways to house people by putting resources into the hands of local communities and by adapting our neighbourhoods. We are not going to be constrained by convention. This government will pursue innovative ideas and make existing housing work for us. A warehouse can be used as more than a warehouse, it can be converted into housing. So can abandoned shopping malls and surplus schools in the future. We can make it possible for affordable housing to be within the reach of every person in Ontario and we must make that possible.

It is my view that this government's housing program is an ambitious one. It will involve the partnership of all levels of government and local communities. My ministry has regional offices serving and working throughout Ontario, providing concrete assistance to local communities in their efforts to identify and to meet the needs for housing of the people of Ontario.

With regard to the issue of where the province will provide housing units, I respond by saying that through this ministry, housing units will be provided all across the province. At present, over 83 per cent of the province's municipalities deliver one or more of our programs and they will continue to do so, and we will expand that process.

I want to take this opportunity to encourage all members of this assembly to ensure that their communities take up the challenge of providing affordable housing by using the resources of the ministry and of this government. I take that opportunity as well to mention this to the honourable member opposite about his community and its commitment to making sure that affordable housing will be built everywhere in Ontario.

All of us in the Legislature, I know, appreciate the magnitude of the housing problems we face. The member opposite has made it very clear that he does. When people in this province need help, they must get help. When they need a place to live, they deserve a decent place to live which they can afford.

As Minister of Housing in this government, I am keenly aware of the needs of the people of

this province. I live with that awareness every day.

The House adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*

(130 seats)

First Session, 34th Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. Lincoln M. Alexander, PC, QC

Adams, Peter (Peterborough L)
 Allen, Richard (Hamilton West NDP)
 Ballinger, William G. (Durham-York L)
 Beer, Charles (York North L)
 Black, Kenneth H. (Muskoka-Georgian Bay L)
 Bossy, Maurice L. (Chatham-Kent L)
Bradley, Hon. James J., Minister of the Environment (St. Catharines L)
 Brandt, Andrew S. (Sarnia PC)
 Breaugh, Michael J. (Oshawa NDP)
 Brown, Michael A. (Algoma-Manitoulin L)
 Bryden, Marion (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
 Callahan, Robert V. (Brampton South L)
 Campbell, Sterling (Sudbury L)
Caplan, Hon. Elinor, Minister of Health (Oriole L)
 Carrothers, Douglas A. (Oakville South L)
 Charlton, Brian A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)
 Chiarelli, Robert (Ottawa West L)
 Cleary, John C. (Cornwall L)
 Collins, Shirley (Wentworth East L)
Conway, Hon. Sean G., Minister of Mines (Renfrew North L)
 Cooke, David R. (Kitchener L)
 Cooke, David S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
 Cordiano, Joseph (Lawrence L)
 Cousens, W. Donald (Markham PC)
 Cureatz, Sam L. (Durham East PC)
Curling, Hon. Alvin, Minister of Skills Development (Scarborough North L)
 Daigeler, Hans (Nepean L)
 Dietsch, Michael M. (St. Catharines-Brock L)
Eakins, Hon. John F., Minister of Municipal Affairs (Victoria-Haliburton L)
Edighoffer, Hon. Hugh A., Speaker (Perth L)
 Elliot, R. Walter (Halton North L)
Elston, Hon. Murray J., Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Bruce L)
 Epp, Herbert A. (Waterloo North L)
 Eves, Ernie L. (Parry Sound PC)
 Farnan, Michael (Cambridge NDP)
 Faubert, Frank (Scarborough-Ellesmere L)
 Fawcett, Joan M. (Northumberland L)
 Ferraro, Rick E. (Guelph L)
 Fleet, David (High Park-Swansea L)
Fontaine, Hon. René, Minister of Northern Development (Cochrane North L)

Fulton, Hon. Ed, Minister of Transportation (Scarborough East L)
 Furlong, Allan W. (Durham Centre L)
Grandmaître, Hon. Bernard C., Minister of Revenue (Ottawa East L)
 Grier, Ruth A. (Etobicoke-Lakeshore NDP)
 Haggerty, Ray (Niagara South L)
 Hampton, Howard (Rainy River NDP)
 Harris, Michael D. (Nipissing PC)
 Hart, Christine E. (York East L)
 Henderson, D. James (Etobicoke-Humber L)
Hošek, Hon. Chaviva, Minister of Housing (Oakwood L)
 Jackson, Cameron (Burlington South PC)
 Johnson, Jack (Wellington PC)
 Johnston, Richard F. (Scarborough West NDP)
 Kanter, Ron (St. Andrew-St. Patrick L)
Kerrio, Hon. Vincent G., Minister of Natural Resources (Niagara Falls L)
 Keyes, Kenneth A. (Kingston and the Islands L)
 Kozyra, Taras B. (Port Arthur L)
Kwinter, Hon. Monte, Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Wilson Heights L)
 Laughren, Floyd (Nickel Belt NDP)
 LeBourdais, Linda (Etobicoke West L)
 Leone, Laureano (Downsview L)
 Lipsett, Ron (Grey L)
 Lupusella, Tony (Dovercourt L)
 MacDonald, Keith (Prince Edward-Lennox L)
 Mackenzie, Bob (Hamilton East NDP)
 Mahoney, Steven W. (Mississauga West L)
Mancini, Hon. Remo, Minister without Portfolio (Essex South L)
 Marland, Margaret (Mississauga South PC)
 Martel, Shelley (Sudbury East NDP)
 Matrundola, Gino (Willowdale L)
 McCague, George R. (Simcoe West PC)
 McClelland, Carman (Brampton North L)
 McGuigan, James F. (Essex-Kent L)
 McGuinty, Dalton J. (Ottawa South L)
 McLean, Allan K. (Simcoe East PC)
McLeod, Hon. Lyn, Minister of Colleges and Universities (Fort William L)
 Miclash, Frank (Kenora L)
 Miller, Gordon I. (Norfolk L)
 Morin, Gilles E. (Carleton East L)
 Morin-Strom, Karl E. (Sault Ste. Marie NDP)

Munro, Hon. Lily O., Minister of Culture and Communications (Hamilton Centre L)
 Neumann, David E. (Brantford L)
 Nicholas, Cindy (Scarborough Centre L)
 Nixon, J. Bradford (York Mills L)

Nixon, Hon. Robert F., Deputy Premier, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics and Minister of Financial Institutions (Brant-Haldimand L)

Offer, Steven (Mississauga North L)

O'Neil, Hon. Hugh P., Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Quinte L)

O'Neill, Yvonne (Ottawa-Rideau L)

Owen, Bruce (Simcoe Centre L)

Patten, Hon. Richard, Minister of Government Services (Ottawa Centre L)

Pelissero, Harry E. (Lincoln L)

Peterson, Hon. David R., Premier and President of the Council and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (London Centre L)

Philip, Ed (Etobicoke-Rexdale NDP)

Phillips, Hon. Gerry, Minister of Citizenship (Scarborough-Agincourt L)

Poirier, Jean, Deputy Speaker and Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House (Prescott and Russell L)

Pollock, Jim (Hastings-Peterborough PC)

Polsinelli, Claudio (Yorkview L)

Poole, Dianne (Eglinton L)

Pope, Alan W. (Cochrane South PC)

Pouliot, Gilles (Lake Nipigon NDP)

Rae, Bob (York South NDP)

Ramsay, Hon. David, Minister of Correctional Services (Timiskaming L)

Ray, Michael C. (Windsor-Walkerville L)

Reville, David (Riverdale NDP)

Reycraft, Douglas R. (Middlesex L)

Riddell, Hon. Jack, Minister of Agriculture and Food (Huron L)

Roberts, Marietta L. D., Deputy Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House (Elgin L)

Runciman, Robert W. (Leeds-Grenville PC)
 Ruprecht, Tony (Parkdale L)

Scott, Hon. Ian G., Attorney General (St. George-St. David L)

Smith, David W. (Lambton L)

Smith, Hon. E. Joan, Solicitor General (London South L)

Sola, John (Mississauga East L)

Sorbara, Hon. Gregory S., Minister of Labour (York Centre L)

South, Larry (Frontenac-Addington L)

Sterling, Norman W. (Carleton PC)

Stoner, Norah (Durham West L)

Sullivan, Barbara (Halton Centre L)

Swart, Mel (Welland-Thorold NDP)

Sweeney, Hon. John, Minister of Community and Social Services (Kitchener-Wilmot L)

Tatham, Charlie (Oxford L)

Van Horne, Ronald G. (London North L)

Velshi, Murad (Don Mills L)

Villeneuve, Noble (Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry PC)

Ward, Hon. Christopher C., Minister of Education (Wentworth North L)

Wildman, Bud (Algoma NDP)

Wilson, Hon. Mavis, Minister without Portfolio (Dufferin-Peel L)

Wiseman, Douglas J. (Lanark-Renfrew PC)

Wong, Hon. Robert C., Minister of Energy (Fort York L)

Wrye, Hon. William, Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Windsor-Sandwich L)

*The alphabetical list of members appears in each issue. Lists of the members of the executive council, parliamentary assistants and members of committees, brought up to date as necessary, are published in Hansard in the first and last issues of each session and on the first sitting day of each month.

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No. 10

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

First Session, 34th Parliament

Monday, November 23, 1987

Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: Claude L. DesRosiers

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Monday, November 23, 1987

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

Prayers.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE

Mr. Swart: As the Minister of Financial Institutions (Mr. R. F. Nixon) will know, there were statements in the press in the latter part of last week by certain insurance companies in the Insurance Bureau of Canada that would cause us to believe they are giving massive rebates on the auto insurance premiums charged motorists earlier this year. I want to tell members it ain't so. It is tokenism and mostly political window-dressing.

Let me put it in perspective. We have the figures for three of the largest companies, and the average rebate for taxi drivers and drivers under age 25 is \$51.73. The premiums these drivers were paying would have averaged between \$2,000 and \$4,000. Of course, these rebates do not apply to 95 per cent of the drivers in this province. That is a big deal.

The last Minister of Financial Institutions told us there were approximately 300,000 young drivers and taxi drivers in Ontario. If each of them receives his 50 pieces of silver, it will have cost the insurance industry in this province \$15 million to buy a rate review board rather than a truly fair, driver-owned system of automobile insurance.

ELEVATOR ACCIDENTS

Mrs. Marland: I want to bring to the attention of the House the continuing lack of government action with respect to public safety. On the weekend, yet another youth was killed while elevator joyriding. Seventeen-year-old Robert Whibley is the third youth to die while elevator joyriding this year.

Elevator joyriding is not new. In fact, this government has had plenty of time to address this problem in a responsible manner, but to date nothing has been done. In April 1986, the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations announced it would study this concern. The report was to be tabled one year ago in the fall of 1986, but what have we seen? Absolutely

nothing. Inquests have recommended that safety devices be installed in elevator shaft doors to prevent them from being pried open. What has the ministry done? Absolutely nothing.

This government has ignored its responsibility for public safety. Once again, we have an example of a serious, life-threatening problem that the government has referred to a committee to study. It has been a year and a half since that study began. How long does it take? For that matter, how many deaths does it take for this government to finally take responsibility and take action to resolve this most serious concern?

JOHN STIEGER

Mr. Dietsch: Recently in my riding, two very special events took place which I would like to share with this House.

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Chamber of Commerce honoured John Stieger as the citizen of the year. Mr. Stieger has dedicated countless hours to this community to improve our quality of life. John Stieger was instrumental in establishing a lifeline system between our hospital and our senior citizens. As well, he has volunteered to assist at Chateau Gardens Nursing Home and Meals on Wheels. We are very proud of the contributions John Stieger has made to our community.

BUSINESS APPRECIATION WEEK

Mr. Dietsch: Last week was Business Appreciation Week in St. Catharines, and 83 companies were recognized for service and commitment to our community. The corporate citizen of the year award was given to Misener holding company. It has established strong community bonds by taking a leading role in the funding and development of Brock University and the Niagara Regional Development Corp. Misener Holdings has worked on campaigns for local hospitals, Ridley College and many other projects.

General Motors of Canada was named company of the year because of its commitment to our region. Its commitment to building a quality competitive product in our area as well as its involvement in virtually every civic charitable, social and educational program in this city have made it a leader in our community.

We are very proud of the achievements of these two companies as well as the other businesses that were recognized.

RENT REGULATION

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I have here in my hand the rent review operating guide. Members can get hold of this 250-page document for \$50 from the Ministry of Housing. On the other hand, I would advise them not to telephone for it. We phoned from my constituency office 30 times. By the way, the number that does not function is 964-8281. Never phone; it is always busy.

My local legislative assistant tried to phone 40 times to get it and could not do so. He went over to get it in the end, but they refused to give it to him unless he paid cash. There was no way they could charge it to my account. Now we have correspondence between the finance department here at the assembly and the Ministry of Housing working out how they can bill this to my office so I can perhaps assist a few of the tenants in my riding who are waiting to go through rent review and have no idea what the new legislation is going to mean to them.

I suggest that this should be made available free to all members in their constituency offices in the hope that they will help tenants as we do over here, but I am not going to wait for the Ministry of Housing to provide it to my colleagues in the New Democratic Party. I will photocopy it for them so that we do not have to wait interminable months, as I have had to do, for the privilege of getting a document which is essential to helping our constituents.

ONTARIO HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN

Mr. McLean: Melissa Duval is a three-year-old former resident of Penetanguishene, Ontario, who suffers from a life-threatening disease that requires immediate medical treatment. Melissa was diagnosed in April as suffering from neuroblastoma, a cancer of the nerves, affecting infants and children. Last month Melissa had a cancerous tumour and her left kidney removed, but she still requires cancer treatments for her bone marrow. Unfortunately, that treatment is only available in a hospital located in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The US treatment involves removing Melissa's bone marrow and treating it while she lies in a special ward isolated from visitors and family. The procedure is expected to cost US\$250,000 for five weeks, which is the minimum time she is expected to require it according to medical experts. The minister should be aware that if

there is not enough money to finance this unique treatment, it will not be performed.

Melissa's parents, Moe and Kathy Duval, who now live in Brampton, Ontario, have been told that because she must travel out of Canada to receive the last medical treatment available that could save her life, she will not receive any money from the Canadian Cancer Society or the United Way. It is my understanding that her Ontario health insurance plan is only going to cover a small portion of the procedure.

I firmly believe that the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan) should direct Ontario health insurance plan officials to up their ante and increase Melissa's coverage to ensure that all, or at the very least, a portion is covered.

1340

RIDING OF LINCOLN

Mr. Pelissero: Members of the House will be aware that the 59th annual Royal Agricultural Winter Fair concluded yesterday in Toronto. This year's fair, which enjoyed the continued financial support of the province, was a resounding success.

I would like to draw to the attention of the House, the achievement of Kathleen Gracey, a chemist at McMaster University, who took first place in the wheat competition with a sheaf of wheat grown on her parents' farm near Wellandport in the riding of Lincoln. Lincoln farmers can all share in this accomplishment, which underscores once again the unique quality of Lincoln soil, as well as the skill and innovation of the men and women who farm it. They have helped to make Ontario a world leader in agricultural technique, as Kathleen Gracey's victory confirms.

It is ironic, however, that the award-winning wheat was grown less than a mile from the proposed site of the Ontario Waste Management Corp.'s toxic waste treatment and disposal facility. I share with the people of Lincoln their deep concern about the possible impact of this toxic waste facility on their community. At the same time they face an uncertain future under the Mulroney government's proposed free trade agreement.

It is fitting that I should address both these issues in my first statement to the House because, as a member for Lincoln, I shall continue to express my constituents' profound concern over the uncertain future and the resolution of these two issues is central to that future.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Miss Martel: In the heated exchange last Thursday over the situation at the McDonnell

Douglas plant, the Minister of Labour (Mr. Sorbara) pointed out that the workers were not "going off work in order to make the ministry listen." I suggest the minister take another look at the history of McDonnell Douglas, since this is exactly the situation workers have been forced into.

This is the third time in two years that work stoppages have occurred at the plant. The latest refusal, prompted by respiratory problems and high aluminum levels, has also been compounded by over 200 violations of the Occupational Health and Safety Act by the company.

The performance at McDonnell Douglas is not an accident. It is open and blatant defiance of the Occupational Health and Safety Act. I hope the Ministry of Labour takes the situation seriously and sends a clear message to employers this will not be tolerated.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

POLICIES ON ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I have two statements. I want to report to the members about the latest developments relating to the recent unfavourable ruling of a panel of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade on Canada's alcohol listing and pricing policies.

I first want to underscore the Ontario government's support for multilateral trade agreements, when the aim is to bring about fairness in the international marketplace. I must also emphasize the government's ongoing support for the maturing Ontario grape and wine industries.

While the immediate elimination of Ontario's current pricing, listing and distribution practices might be seen as an admirable goal by wine-making industries in France, Italy and California, the consequences could prove catastrophic for Ontario's vintners and grape growers. The key issue is time, enough time for Ontario grape growers and wine makers to become more competitive.

Over the weekend, the government reached an agreement with representatives of the Ontario grape and wine industries that will provide for the gradual elimination of most of the practices viewed as discriminatory. I am very proud of the agreement that has been reached and their part in it.

Today Ontario government officials are in Ottawa discussing this agreement with federal trade authorities. The federal government will play a key role under our proposals in providing transitional adjustment assistance. We also expect Ottawa to challenge European wine and

grape subsidy practices. In addition, Ontario will insist on taking part in the development of Canada's trading strategies on this subject. We also want to participate fully in negotiating sessions with the European Community.

As well, we are seeking federal support for our wine industry in helping it to adjust to greater international competition. Our proposal encompasses grape acreage reductions, grape-growing improvement programs and marketing assistance. These government and industry efforts will help us to ensure a stronger, competitive industry.

The Ontario grape and wine industries have made great strides over the last few years. The growing list of international awards attests to the industry's capacity to achieve quality, but the task of converting vineyards requires time. This transition strategy should provide both the time and opportunity for Ontario's grape and wine industries to become fully competitive on both price and quality.

LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD OF ONTARIO

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I have a second statement. I want to report to the Legislature that earlier today the chairman of the Liquor Control Board of Ontario, Jack Ackroyd, announced a major reorganization of the management structure and operating procedures of the corporation.

Before I speak to those changes, I first want to note the board's commitment over the last 10 months in vigorously carrying out the structural and operational review first requested by the government in January. The changes announced today are the latest in a series of improvements implemented this year at the LCBO as a direct result of that review.

Above all, it must be remembered that as the agency empowered by law to distribute alcoholic beverages in this province, the LCBO has a public responsibility to perform its role in an exemplary way. It was with this in mind that the ministry urged the chairman to bring in outside management consultants to review the efficiency and the effectiveness of the operation.

The board of directors met Friday and approved a new streamlined management structure to increase efficiency while improving customer service. The new structure will allow the organization to become more decentralized and more focused on the delivery of retail service.

Part of the plan involves the early retirement of two senior executives, the moving of a third to another posting in the civil service and the

departure of a fourth from provincial employment. In addition, the position of executive vice-president of administration will be eliminated.

The process of decentralization will involve greater store and regional autonomy. Individual store managers will be able to order and stock those products which they find to be popular in their local area. These changes will increase accountability and responsibility from bottom to top.

The board of directors itself will be given greater responsibility and a clearer mandate to govern the organization and to carry out government policy. Both the government and the board recognize that the route to improved accountability and efficiency lies in the creation of a responsive consumer-oriented retail organization.

I am sure any member of the Legislature who has been inside an Ontario liquor store over the last year has already seen evidence of this new emphasis on the consumer. These visible changes include improved store layouts, increased accessibility, more convenient store hours, better-trained staff and a substantially expanded choice of specialty products.

But the most telling impact of this change is being felt in areas which the customer may not be able to see quite so directly. The review has resulted in initiatives not only in the board's customer service and marketing skills, but also in general management, human resources, internal communications and security.

A long-standing difficulty for the board has been the quality of inventory control. The modernization of the LCBO's recordkeeping and a greater emphasis on controlling storeroom inventories will reduce overstocking problems. The installation of modern stock control mechanisms at the point of sale and in warehouses will go a long way towards addressing this problem. A new ordering system already installed in the Ottawa warehouse will be monitored carefully for its possible application in other regions of the province.

In the meantime, overstocking has been curtailed and slow-moving, delisted products have been removed from warehouses. There has also been increased use of product transfers between warehouses to balance stock levels.

The board's entire listing and product selection policy is also being revamped to better reflect customer tastes while ensuring efficient product management.

In other areas, the Legislature has already enacted amendments to bring the board's hiring procedures into line with accepted government practices. This has ended the long-standing practice of filling many LCBO vacancies by patronage appointments.

To increase productivity, a new measurement package has been introduced called performance indicators. These indicators will improve the current system for staffing and the monitoring of store performance.

Throughout this process of review and change, the task of ensuring product quality has remained paramount. The board's laboratory has continued to conduct stringent testing of all new products for quality and safety. This past summer, for example, several brands were removed from the shelves of 617 stores in a matter of hours after glass chips were detected in a small number of samples.

As a result of the steps already carried out and those structural and management changes announced today by the chairman, the new LCBO will be less bureaucratic, more accountable and more service-oriented.

I am sure these wide-ranging improvements in the world's largest alcohol retailer will be welcomed by all members of this House and by the public at large.

1350

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: As honourable members know, a large number of workers at the McDonnell Douglas aircraft plant in Mississauga last Wednesday exercised their right to refuse to work.

Since then the situation has escalated because of a dispute between the workplace parties over the payment of the workers and allegations by some members of reprisals by the company. As honourable members know, on Friday senior ministry staff met with senior representatives of both the company and the Canadian Auto Workers union in an effort to seek a resolution to that dispute. That meeting ended without agreement.

Again over the weekend, senior ministry staff made themselves available in an effort to assist the parties to reach an agreement whereby the work refusal investigations could resume. Some progress was made at these meetings.

I wish to advise the House that an understanding has now been reached between the workplace parties at a meeting with ministry officials this morning. This understanding is a vital step

towards resolving the health and safety issues at the McDonnell Douglas plant, issues of vital concern to the workers and to this ministry.

The understanding will allow the workplace parties to develop a protocol for investigating the work refusals and health and safety concerns of the workers. In addition, the parties will simultaneously be discussing procedures to deal with information and training for chemical hazards, a medical surveillance program and the remedies concerning the ventilation system.

Meanwhile, inspectors from the ministry are continuing ongoing investigations into the alleged reprisals by the company. Until those and other investigations are fully completed, we will not know whether there is sufficient evidence to proceed with prosecutions. Those prosecutions, if warranted, will be pursued.

I understand the parties have indicated that as of the Sunday midnight shift the company will be paying those workers standing by during the investigations into the workplace refusals. They have also indicated that they may pursue resolution of the issue of the disputed wages by way of an application before the Ontario Labour Relations Board.

It is my expectation that the company and the union will continue to agree on a clear path to resolving the issues. Meanwhile, ministry inspectors and hygienists will be at the plant to continue their ongoing investigations and to ensure that the joint investigations by the CAW and the company adequately resolve the workers' concerns.

ANNUAL REPORT, ONTARIO ADVISORY COUNCIL ON SENIOR CITIZENS

Hon. Mrs. Wilson: It is my honour to table with the House today the 13th annual report of the Ontario Advisory Council on Senior Citizens. The newly published report deals with the council's work for the last fiscal year.

Members will know that the advisory council comprises a group of knowledgeable and dedicated citizens from across Ontario who offer their time and expertise to the government on issues affecting the wellbeing of seniors. Under the chairmanship of Mrs. Ivy St. Lawrence, the council has made and will no doubt continue to make its presence felt in a highly informed and forthright manner.

This past year has been particularly successful for the council and the citizens of Ontario whom it serves. Among its many excellent initiatives, the council has undertaken a survey to help determine the service needs of senior citizens

who continue to live in their own homes. Many elderly home owners responded to the survey, and I am grateful to the council for sharing those valuable comments and ideas with me.

I want to draw special attention to the council's quarterly newspaper, *Especially for Seniors*, which had an expanded circulation this year of a remarkable 20 per cent and now reaches almost one million Ontarians. I am very proud that *Especially for Seniors* now boasts one of the largest readerships in Canada.

This past June the government announced the five pilot sites for one-stop access, our new approach to the delivery of community health and social services to the elderly. Let me say how much I appreciate the council's ongoing interest in and support for this initiative. May I add that one-stop-access implementation is proceeding on schedule.

The advisory council on senior citizens has dedicated itself this past year to the theme of independence for seniors. In so doing, it has again distinguished itself in the promotion of the wellbeing of our elderly citizens.

I want to express my personal thanks to the council members and staff, and I commend this annual report to all members of the House.

In closing, I would like the members to welcome Mrs. Ivy St. Lawrence, chairman of the Ontario Advisory Council on Senior Citizens, who is with us in the members' gallery today.

RESPONSES

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Mr. Mackenzie: I would like an undertaking from the Minister of Labour (Mr. Sorbara) that will allow the workplace parties to develop a protocol for investigating the work refusals and the health and safety concerns of the workers. The fact that the parties will simultaneously be discussing procedures to deal with the information and training for chemical hazards makes me wonder where we have been for the last several years in this particular area.

How many times have we had this government tell us it has the procedures in place and adequate legislation to take care of the workers? The minister has now clearly told us we do not have them in place, and we should have. These workers should also not have to go to the Ontario Labour Relations Board to be guaranteed their money for a legitimate work refusal.

The minister has to understand that he has not lived up to expectations of the workers in this province. We seem to be getting a worse deal now than we did with the previous minister. To

get up here in the House and answer questions on an issue as serious as slaughter in the workplace—because that is what it is all about in many of the plants in this province—is just not adequate with the kind of pompous and smug answers we got in this House on Thursday.

I hope that this minister is prepared to start dealing with the serious problems and that we are going to see some legislation in this House, and not the kind of answers we are getting when workers are at risk in the workplace.

ANNUAL REPORT, ONTARIO ADVISORY COUNCIL ON SENIOR CITIZENS

Ms. Bryden: I would like to respond to the statement by the Minister without Portfolio responsible for senior citizens' affairs (Mrs. Wilson). The minister states in her comment that the five pilot sites for one-stop access are proceeding on schedule with regard to implementation. Just what is the schedule for these pilots and when will they open their doors?

I understand that the only one in Metro Toronto, which is the borough of East York, has been told that the one-stop access cannot be implemented until the integrated homemaker service is in place for that area, and the indication is that this may not be until some time in 1989 or later. Does that mean there will be no one-stop-access facilities in the whole of Metropolitan Toronto until some time two years hence?

POLICIES ON ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Mr. Swart: I would like to comment on the announcement made by the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Wrye) with regard to the supposed agreement with the grape and wine producers about starting to reduce the protection they now have in this province.

I want to say to the minister that this is a precipitous collapse that is going to dramatically hurt the grape growers in the Niagara Peninsula. The minister himself says the key issue is time, yet he has not even taken time to discuss this with the Ontario Grape Growers' Marketing Board as a group. In fact, they are having a meeting in the very near future to deal with this proposal, and the minister announces it in the House today before that meeting takes place with the grape growers in the Niagara Peninsula.

The key issue, yes, is time; it is more time. The key issue is also that there be justice done with regard to the grape growers. Sure, we have a markup here, but the minister knows very well there is a massive subsidy to all of the other grape growers in the other parts of the world that export

to Canada. If that is legal, then perhaps that is what he should be doing in this province and in this nation: providing that subsidy in lieu of the markups so they are able to compete favourably with those in the other parts of the world, whether that be the United States or some of the countries in Europe.

The previous government took time to negotiate with people in the US so we could get a markup that was agreeable to them in the US. Why are some of the ministers here, the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell) or somebody else, not going to Europe, to those countries that are complaining, to see if they can work out an agreement there? Instead of that, what the minister is saying is, "We are going to abolish the protection for the grape growers."

I want to say it is not worthy of the government of this province to damage the grape growers of this province the way he is doing by announcing this agreement at this time without going into all those discussions.

1400

Mr. Brandt: I want to make some comment in connection with the agreement the minister is attempting to reach with the grape industry and the wine producers in Niagara.

First of all, unlike my friend, I will applaud the minister if he is able to find some common ground upon which to enter a transitional period whereby he can minimize or reduce the risk of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade decision relative to our wine industry. I think this transitional period is absolutely essential if we are to keep that industry intact and bring about a situation that will result in the minimum amount of damage to a vital industry, our province and our country.

The minister indicates in his comment that he feels Ontario should be at the table with the federal government in negotiations with the European Community, and I think that is a very positive step. Those same kinds of appearances with respect to co-operation with our federal colleagues might also be attractive in regard to other circumstances, such as certain elements of the free trade discussions that the government on the other side appears to be somewhat hesitant to talk to our federal colleagues about.

I certainly would not take issue with the minister's attempting to bring about a compromise, if you will, with the European Community relative to the forms of subsidy it is providing to its industry as opposed to the methodology we use here. If there is, again, a common ground that

can reduce the impact on the wine industry, I would applaud that.

Obviously the industry needs time to adjust. I want the minister to be very cautious on one point, however. While we are going through that period of adjustment—and he has simply asked for some understanding in connection with that—I would ask him to be very careful in regard to any retaliatory action taken by the Europeans with respect to other areas, other industries or other sectors of our economy. No good whatever is served, in my view, in accomplishing some benefit to one sector of industry, such as the grape and the wine producers, if we simply have an action taken against us in regard to some other products produced by Ontario industries.

LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD OF ONTARIO

Mr. Brandt: I will be very brief, because my colleagues want to speak on some other items.

In regard to the Liquor Control Board of Ontario internal reorganization, again we take no issue with what the minister is proposing. Most of it appears to be administrative changes. Some of the new controls he is suggesting to impose in an attempt to make the LCBO more responsive to consumers, as well as the decentralization, are steps that I do not take great issue with, but we will be monitoring them very closely to make certain that what the minister is proposing by way of administrative changes actually works.

We will see what happens in the days that unfold related to the LCBO, its practices and the results he is able to get as a result of some shuffling of personnel and some change in direction that he is proposing to take.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Mr. Eves: I would like to respond to the statement made by the Minister of Labour (Mr. Sorbara).

This government has prided itself on occupational health and safety and its so-called improvements to the system. We find out, after some workers have been out of work here for four or five days, that it took the ministry over the weekend to develop a protocol for investigating work refusals over the health and safety concerns of the workers under the act. The parties are only now going to start discussing procedures about information and training for chemical hazards, a medical surveillance program and remedies concerning the ventilation system.

This statement is entirely reactive, as opposed to proactive. It only points out the inadequacies of this ministry in dealing with these problems. I

hope the ministry has now at least got the message out of this incident: that it is not prepared to deal with matters of occupational health and safety in this province. Maybe it should start doing something about them.

ANNUAL REPORT, ONTARIO ADVISORY COUNCIL ON SENIOR CITIZENS

Mr. McCague: I would like to join the Minister without Portfolio responsible for senior citizens' affairs (Mrs. Wilson) in congratulating the Ontario Advisory Council on Senior Citizens for its annual report. The member for London North (Mr. Van Horne), who is responsible for much of the guidance through this, is not here. I would have liked for him to have been present. However, I hope the minister will take the opportunity in the early days of her position to talk to people such as the Minister of Housing (Ms. Hošek) and the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan) to urge upon them the importance of providing the facilities to help everyone in the parts of Ontario that the member and I know very well.

ORAL QUESTIONS

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Mr. B. Rae: I have a question for the Minister of Labour.

The minister will no doubt be aware that section 24 of the Occupational Health and Safety Act states very clearly that no employer shall "impose any penalty upon a worker...because the worker...has sought the enforcement of this act or the regulations." The minister will also know that there are very specific sections in the act which require the government to prosecute employers who breach the act.

The minister has confirmed in his statement that workers have not been paid at McDonnell Douglas for the work period between Wednesday and Sunday. I cannot imagine a clearer example of a penalty being imposed by an employer upon its workers.

Is it the view of this government that workers who refuse to work because it is their belief that work is unsafe should be paid by their employer or is it the view of the minister that they should not be paid? Which is it?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: It is clear that where a worker refuses to work because of a concern with occupational health and safety, he has the right to continue to be paid while the first stage of the investigation is under way. That is clearly the case, certainly in many of the instances at McDonnell Douglas.

I tell my friend the Leader of the Opposition that the regime for determining the extent to which there is an obligation to pay during that initial period was something worked out by the company and the union. They have agreed to it.

Mr. B. Rae: The minister will also be aware that the union has not agreed for one moment—and I am sure the minister would not want to be accused of misleading anyone—the minister would understand and would surely agree that the union has not agreed for one moment, under any circumstances, that the workers not working between Wednesday and Sunday should not be paid. I am sure the minister would not want to make that statement or that allegation in the House.

Again, to go back to what the law is in this province, just so that we are clear on what the obligations of the minister are, the act states quite categorically in subsection 37(1), "Every person who contravenes or fails to comply with, (a) a provision of this act or the regulations...is guilty of an offence and on conviction is liable to a fine of not more than \$25,000." On Thursday I showed the minister examples of more than 200 instances where the act had clearly not been complied with.

I want to go back to a very simple and basic question to the minister. Why has the ministry not laid any prosecutions under this act that would lead either to a fine or to a jail sentence? The minister knows that both of those are possibilities. I would like to ask him why he has not laid any prosecutions under the act.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I think I tried to answer that question last Thursday and I can only tell my friend what I said last Thursday. The reason prosecutions have not been laid yet is that the investigations which may well lead to prosecutions have not been completed.

I cannot tell him more. I cannot tell him, although he wants to make this into a highly charged political issue, that because he is asking questions in the House about prosecutions the investigations will be short-circuited and then we will lay prosecutions and then continue with the investigations. That is not the procedure we are going to take.

Mr. B. Rae: If the minister would read the file he would find that there are instances piled very high indeed where inspectors have found contraventions, where they have indicated specifically what those contraventions are and where they have urged the employer to take steps to stop those contraventions.

Would the minister not agree that if an investigation has taken place so that the employer is being told to clean up the operation—for example, he is being told to bring in an entirely new ventilation system in the plant because the workers have in fact been breathing contaminated fumes—would he not agree that if the inspectors can say quite clearly that has to be cleaned up, the inspectors can also say, "You are in breach of the law and you will be fined and prosecuted under the law"?

Is one investigation not good enough for the minister to make it clear to the employers of this province that they are going to have to do more than just clean up their act, that they also have to face the fact they are going to get fined when they do not clean up?

1410

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: My friend knows perfectly well that fines and prosecutions are in many instances the result of investigations of this nature. I cannot tell my friend anything more than that a thorough investigation was begun; I think the beginning of the investigation was around August 7. The actual inspection and investigation within the plant took some 45 days. Some 212 orders were issued, and the process of compliance with those orders has been ongoing for quite some time.

Investigations with respect to work refusals, additional orders to be implemented against the employer and the question of prosecutions are ongoing matters right now. I will undertake to advise my friend when that process is complete and to advise him at that time if and when prosecutions are going to be launched against McDonnell Douglas.

Mr. B. Rae: By the time the minister gets around to doing it, he probably will not be the minister any more.

Mr. Speaker: New question.

Mr. B. Rae: The question I have, to the same minister, is this. Let me just give him one example from the report of the inspector: "This order shall apply to the following areas where contraventions were observed: ...spraying of isocyanate paint with no local exhaust.... Mixing and use of isocyanates with no local exhaust."

The reports are piled high as to what the health effects of isocyanates are. The minister knows the material is there; it is available. Workers have been sent home because they have been sensitized, workers who are very ill indeed because of isocyanates.

Does the minister not understand the consequences of a failure to prosecute where a breach of this kind takes place in a company of this size? Does he not realize that what he is doing is giving a licence to pollute and to poison to every single employer in this country if he is not prepared to prosecute a company like McDonnell Douglas?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: What my friend says about failure to act is as ridiculous as what he says about who is going to be minister and when. He knows what the extent of the order is as a result of our investigation. He knows the burden the company is now under to install a ventilation system to remove those odours. He also knows interim steps and interim orders have been put into place to protect the workers during the interim period while that ventilation system is being installed.

Mr. B. Rae: This is a very basic question. What the minister seems to be saying is that as long as the company complies with these orders, there will be no prosecutions. What we are saying on this side is that when you find over 200 instances where the law has been broken, you fine and you prosecute and you do not wait until compliance takes place; you go in there and move.

Does the minister not understand that the implication of that approach is for every employer to be able to say to the government, "There is no cost to refusing to comply because all that will happen is that on one of your inspections we may have to improve the technology, but we will never ever be fined and prosecuted for breaking the law"?

Does the minister not understand that the implication of failing to prosecute where there are breaches as serious as this for the health and safety of every worker in that plant is to send a message to every employer that there is going to be no penalty imposed other than simply having to ultimately, perhaps, obey the law, but that there will be no fine structure separate from that? Does he not understand that?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: The Leader of the Opposition continues to suggest to every member of this House that a decision has been made, in respect of McDonnell Douglas, not to prosecute. He knows that is not the truth, and I wish he would quit doing that. The fact is that an investigation is going on; he knows that. Negotiations were ongoing for the implementation of a training system that would be of great assistance to the workers in dealing with highly volatile chemicals, and when that process is complete a determination will be made as to

whether prosecutions are going to be launched against the company and the extent of those prosecutions. He knows that, but he continues to suggest the contrary.

Mr. B. Rae: The minister will know that once you have been exposed to isocyanates and you have been declared sensitized there is no going back.

An hon. member: It is irreversible.

Mr. B. Rae: It is irreversible. The minister will also know that workers have been asked to work with a number of other carcinogens without their knowledge. The minister will know, for example, it says: "Pursuant to section 28(1)(2) of the act, the employer shall produce a list of all chemicals, solvents, paints, etc., in use in all departments of the plant. This order shall be complied with on or before November 23, 1987."

I could go through this and show the minister, in case after case, where respiratory equipment has not been provided, where workers have not been informed of the substances with which they are working, where it has been proved that the ventilation system is so crappy that workers are sucking in the air which is part of the pollution problem in the plant, where four workers have been found to have aluminum levels in their blood far in excess of whatever the permissible levels are and none of the doctors in the plant was aware of it but were continuing to tell the workers that everything was OK.

There is not a clearer case of where a government ought to have gone in on August 7 and, after 45 days, compiled this information and then come out and said to the people and the employers in the province, "We have found a plant that is clearly not in compliance and we are going to pursue this company to the very full limit of the law."

Mr. Speaker: Question.

Mr. Rae: Why is that not the minister's message to the employers of this province instead of the one where he says they have all the time in the world they want?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: The Leader of the Opposition really has not asked any question other than one. He uses his questions and his supplementaries simply to give speeches. I tell you once again, Mr. Speaker, and I tell all the members of this House, that investigations in—

Mr. Wildman: Why do you dither?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Now there is a question that my friend the member for Algoma (Mr.

Wildman) might ask which would be different from what his leader is asking.

At this moment, I cannot tell the Leader of the Opposition when we will complete the work that may well lead to prosecutions. What he is—

Mr. B. Rae: You have already said they are in breach of the law. Your investigation has shown it.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. B. Rae: You have determined they are in breach of the law. What are you talking about?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: We are in agreement as to the fact that there were 212 violations and 212 orders. That was not the end of the process, because that was not all that had to be done at McDonnell Douglas. That is why our ministry is still there.

CONFLICT-OF-INTEREST GUIDELINES

Mr. Brandt: I have a question for the Premier. In an interview that was given to a Windsor newspaper on September 18, I believe, the Premier indicated that he would personally review the disclosure statements with respect to a conflict of all his ministers. Further, the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) made a statement that the disclosure statements would be made public by the end of this month.

Can the Premier share with this House whether he has reviewed the disclosure statements of the ministers of his cabinet? If he has not at this point, when does he plan on reviewing those statements?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I met today with the interim commissioner, as a matter of fact. I had an hour's meeting with him today. As the member knows, he is interviewing all the cabinet ministers, operating on the basis that the new conflict-of-interest bill that has been presented to this House before will be the operating principle.

He is looking at all aspects of this issue, and I am looking for a report from him. We are putting as much pressure on as we can to get that filed as quickly as possible. We were originally hoping by the end of November, but I suspect that could reach a week or two into December.

Mr. Brandt: Further to that question, I believe the Premier may be aware that in a recent article that was written in the Toronto Globe and Mail by Dr. Bryden, who is professor emeritus of the department of political science at the University of Toronto, he indicated that he believes the bill that is being proposed by the government fails to protect against the appearance of conflict of interest and, in his opinion,

will lead to the erosion of the democratic process.

Dr. Bryden states that by allowing ministers to be fully informed of the nature of their holdings and by allowing cohabiting spouses of ministers to enter into business arrangements with the government, the government is actually promoting the perception of government leaders using their influence for personal gain.

In June of this year, in response to a similar question from the former leader of our party, the Premier agreed to public hearings on the proposed bill so that the concerns of Dr. Bryden and others in this House can be heard as part of a full committee hearing.

Will the Premier, recognizing some of the real concerns that we all have relative to this question of conflict, agree today to see that this whole matter is submitted to an all-party committee of the House for full review and discussion?

1420

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I have no problem with that at all. I had not read the article of the esteemed socialist intellectual Dr. Bryden, although I know that his influence is still all-pervasive in this house as an ex-member and as one who gives counsel regularly. I am not familiar with his particular views, and as the member knows, there are lots of different views on this subject.

It is our intention to have a full discussion in this House, and I gather the Attorney General is very comfortable with the fact that this would go to a committee of this House for a full discussion of Dr. Bryden's views or anyone else's views. But I should tell my honourable friend that the operating principles of this bill are: first, that all members would be included; second, that it would operate on the disclosure principle; and third, that there would be an independent commission.

What we are trying to do, I say to my friend, is to develop a system so that no one in this House would ever be in a position where he or she would put private interest ahead of public interest. We have rejected the view of some of our NDP friends opposite with respect to some of their views, but in our view, this bill will be a leader in our democratic system of making it fair for everyone concerned to protect that basic operating principle of keeping the supremacy of the public interest in everybody's mind.

Mr. Brandt: I would say to the Premier that there are others in this House who do not share his confidence in that particular bill. There are many who have stated that the bill being proposed by his government will do nothing

other than to water down the requirements for a minister in his cabinet and allow it to do—or in fact to legalize—things that were illegal under previous guidelines.

I appreciate the Premier agreeing to send this matter to an all-party committee for the scrutiny I think it truly deserves and requires, but that being the case, would the Premier agree as well to subject his cabinet to the provisions of the guidelines that are now in place until such time as the bill has been reviewed by committee and is the law of this province as it relates to cabinet ministers; until such time as those changes are in fact a matter of requirement for the government of Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I think my honourable friend pointed out the difficulty in his own question; he referred to guidelines on one hand as opposed to legislation on the other hand.

My honourable friend is right; he operated for a number of years under a set of guidelines—Mr. Davis's, mine and others. It becomes a subjective call of the first minister under those guidelines. As my honourable friend will know, there is no enforcement of that. That is not in a bill, and the enforcement is only the subjective whim of the first minister. I am sure every first minister the member has ever talked to—and he has known intimately a number of them—will tell him some of the difficulties with respect to the subjective interpretations of those things.

I said to the member some time ago, and I said during the campaign, that the operating principle for conflict of interest would be that bill. Those are the guidelines I am employing. I am using independent and outside advice, in terms of legal counsel as well as the interim commissioner, to assist me in that regard.

Those are the guidelines on which I am operating; we did this after a thorough review, an independent review and study, after looking at a lot of other jurisdictions in the free world dealing with this question; and we believe, I say to my honourable friend—and I appreciate his points of view, he will have an opportunity to debate them in the House, in committee and every other place—that our bill will be fair, that it will be in a sense a milestone in dealing with this problem that has been troublesome to lots of us in the past and that it will provide the public with the protection it needs and deserves, and that is again that no one in this House ever puts private interests ahead of public interest.

Mr. Brandt: I appreciate the rhetoric, and I appreciate the assurances, but what we would like to see, I believe, on this side of the House is

somewhat more assurance in terms of the detail of the bill he proposes to bring forward that will deliver the kinds of guarantees he has indicated on a number of occasions.

Mr. Speaker: The second question directed to the Premier?

IDEA CORP.

Mr. Brandt: I am getting to my next question, Mr. Speaker, which I know you are awaiting in great anticipation for me to propose to the Premier.

My next question is in regard to other assurances the Premier has given this House. He will recall that some time ago we had a matter of some conflict of interest relative to IDEA Corp. and one of his ministers. We had asked on a number of occasions for the release of the Biddell report that related to some of the matters pertaining to IDEA Corp. Since \$12.9 million has in fact been written off by IDEA Corp. in its transfer to the Ontario Development Corp., will the Premier give us some indication of when that report will be made public?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I do not have a precise date, but I am happy to tell my honourable friend that the Biddell report into all aspects of IDEA Corp. will be made public as soon as it is completed and as soon as it is done. I share my honourable friend's view that IDEA Corp. was one of the sad chapters in the history of this province. I have said to him before that our mistake as a government was not killing it on the day we came in because we have seen these problems lingering.

My honourable friend, as a former minister in charge of the IDEA Corp.—I assume that was during his tenure—will know and share some of the shame and embarrassment that corporation has brought to this House. So I want to say that we will share all that with my honourable friend and we will just have to look back on it as a write-off of an ill-conceived idea. I am sure my honourable friend will have lots of views on this subject when that report is presented in the House.

Mr. Brandt: Once again we have only the assurance the report will be released as soon as it is completed. I am sure the Premier is aware that the report is well over a year overdue at this point in time. Surely he could use the influence of his office to encourage whoever is finalizing that report to place it before the Legislature so we can have an opportunity to review it and see where the \$12.9 million has gone, along with other

write-offs and losses that were experienced by the IDEA Corp.

It might be interesting for the Premier to note as well that he has other reports that have not been forthcoming and that we have been looking for for some long time on this side of the House. Can the Premier give us some assurance that the report relating to the Vaughan land sales—I know he is getting advice from some of his senior advisers on either side of him.

The reality is that the Premier should know these are very sensitive issues that the people of Ontario have a right to know about. It is all well and good for the Premier to stand up and say these reports will be released as soon as they are ready, but these reports potentially could affect members of his cabinet, potentially could affect members of the inner circle he has appointed to the executive council—

Mr. Speaker: Question.

Mr. Brandt: —and I ask only that he give us assurance, with respect to the Vaughan land sales report, that it as well will be released quickly. When can we expect that report?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: It is a police report, the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) tells me, and as soon as it is completed I will be very happy to share all this information.

I am sure my honourable friend would not want to sort of accidentally cast any innuendo on any member of this House. I am sure my honourable friend will want to take an objective look at these reports, but I can tell my honourable friend that we have absolutely nothing to hide and it will all be there for him to see and to scrutinize. He can look through there for the names. He might know some of them quite well himself.

Mr. Brandt: I know the Premier will know some of the names because it is interesting to note that in regard to the conflict matters we discussed in this House earlier, an all-party committee of this Legislature, in its report with respect to the member for Cochrane North (Mr. Fontaine), indicated that notwithstanding the Premier's repeated assurances that he had enforced the guidelines, it was evident there was little or no effort to monitor compliance.

Now he has again today given us assurances in regard to the compliance of his respective ministers as they relate to the new bill he is bringing forward and to the existing guidelines. He has also given us assurances relative to the Biddell report and to the Vaughan land sales report. I ask the Premier only to indicate to this House one more time, if he would, that his

ministers are in compliance and that those reports relative to this entire matter will be released at the earliest possible opportunity. That is the least the people of Ontario can expect from him.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I think I gave my honourable friend those assurances. As I said, there has been very thorough legal scrutiny, and by all members of the executive council, both by counsel as well as by the interim commissioner. He is doing his final report. That will be available for all to see and scrutinize. I tell my honourable friend that when these reports are available they will be tabled in this House for all to see.

1430

ELEVATOR ACCIDENTS

Mr. Philip: I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. The minister will be aware that in the last 14 years eight youths have died tragically by joyriding on the roofs of elevators in Metropolitan Toronto. The minister will also be aware of the latest tragic death, that of Robert Whibley in the riding I represent. Despite numerous recommendations by various coroners' juries, we still have a litany of deaths of youths in this province as a result of the joyriding syndrome. What does the minister intend to do to put an end to this litany of tragedy?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: The member is right that there have been far too many deaths. As a result, it was back in February 1986 that a joint industry-government task force was established. Over the next three or four months, that task force reviewed the situation in a number of other jurisdictions, both in North America and in Europe, to see whether safety measures that had been brought into those jurisdictions could be adapted in Ontario. It was found that they were not able to do so.

We began to look at new measures and over the last year and a half, on a pilot basis, we have been trying out a number of new measures to ensure that these youths and others cannot get on top of the elevators either through hallway entrances or through the elevator itself.

The task force now is about ready to report to me, and will within the next month, on the solutions it has found that have tested out positively in a number of buildings—I believe in nine—and a major retrofit in a number of buildings across the province will begin a short time thereafter.

Mr. Philip: The answer by this government to practically every question is a task force or another study. The coroner's jury on June 10, 1986, convened by Dr. Bunt, stated, "Given the

ability of known security devices to restrict entry in part or whole to the top of elevators or elevator cables, said devices "—should—" be installed immediately on all elevators in problem buildings."

Given that recommendation that was made in 1986 and given the fact that the technology is available now, albeit it is somewhat expensive, will the minister give assurance that the cost of these protective devices that will save lives will not be a factor in militating against their being installed as soon as possible?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I am aware of the honourable member's comments regarding these devices. Certainly, the solution we have found is relatively costly. In reviewing with my staff this morning the situation as we find it today, following the tragic death on the weekend and on the likely recommendations that will come forward from the industry-government task force, I noted the cost, noted its expense; but most of all I want to assure the member I noted the need in a number of these buildings the member has spoken about of getting on with the job of retrofit just as quickly as possible.

I do expect the report before Christmas; I believe in the early part of December. We will review the report very quickly and, hopefully, get on with the job.

CEDAR GLEN

Mr. McLean: I have a question for the Minister of Health. It has been brought to my attention that the health and living conditions at a boarding home in Uptergrove, Ontario, are extremely unsatisfactory. Cedar Glen home houses 25 residents, two of whom are under the age of 40, who suffer from schizophrenia and are former patients of Queen Street Mental Health Centre here in Toronto. The boarders are both male and female and the majority are senior citizens.

It is my understanding they have access to only one washroom and are forced to live and eat in what would be considered squalid conditions. It is my understanding that the Cedar Glen home is considered to be a group home but is not licensed as such. When will the minister investigate the overcrowded, unsanitary conditions the 25 residents are forced to live in?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I appreciate the member raising this question. I am not familiar with this particular home or the details. I am not sure that it falls with the responsibility of the Ministry of Health. If he would be so kind as to send the details over, I would be happy to look into it.

Mr. McLean: I have some copies of pictures of pails that are used at night and fields where they are dumped the next morning. Would the minister introduce legislation immediately so that group homes such as Cedar Glen will be brought up to a standard where those people can live in dignity?

I know the minister may think it is not the full responsibility of her ministry; it could be the Ministry of Community and Social Services. However, I do believe she should report her findings in a statement here tomorrow so these people can live in dignity.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: As I said, I would be pleased to receive the information from the member. I hear his concerns and I would be willing to take a look at the situation he has brought to the attention of the House today.

RENT REGULATION

Mr. Breagh: I have a question of the Minister of Housing concerning rent review, or the lack thereof. How does she explain it to a tenant such as Michael Abromeit at unit 61 on 275 Manse Road in Scarborough? How does she explain that rent review process to him?

In the first instance the fault was the ministry. In May, when the first hearing was to have been held, it did not have its forms ready. Subsequently the cost-revenue statement was not ready. There was a further delay in the fall, on September 18 to be precise, when the forms were not ready by the landlord. Now they think they might get a hearing and a decision some time by the end of November.

How does the minister explain that nonprocess to tenants in Ontario? Where a decision can be delayed—of course, that means they continue to pay large amounts of rent—how is there any fairness in that, where, by simply not filing a form, a landlord delays the decision on rent review?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: The format of the process that tenants and landlords have to go through in the rent review process has time limits for various stages along the way which allow both the landlords and the tenants to put forward the information that will help them make their case.

It is extremely important that tenants have a chance to look at the information being presented by the landlord and have enough time to respond adequately to make their case as strongly as possible. It seems to me that is a very important part of the legislation, and it was part of what was fought for by the tenants' representatives who

helped to think through the process that gave us the legislation.

I think the process and the time limits in each section are there to protect the tenants so they can look at the information given by the landlord and respond in full detail.

Mr. Breagh: It is an interesting theory but in practice that is not what is happening. Surely the minister must understand that each time there is a delay of this kind the tenant is penalized: the tenant pays additional amounts of rent until such time as the decision is reached. How can the minister possibly justify a loophole this wide in her rent review process?

I grant the minister that the first major fault was in the ministry, which could not get forms printed, but it is obvious now that landlords across Ontario are taking advantage of tenants simply by not filing forms. How can she let a system like that proceed?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I would like the details of the particular case the member has in mind. I would like to see what exactly happened in that case. However, it seems to me very clear that the tenants need to be able to look at all the data that are presented by the landlord in order to be able to respond to all the details. That is the reason the time frames are in the legislation.

If, in this particular case, there are other problems, I would like to see the details. I ask the member to please give me the information on this particular case.

SKILLS TRAINING

Mr. Jackson: I have a question for the Minister of Skills Development. Last week in this House we established several pieces of information. One of those was that the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) needs about \$80 million above last year's government estimates to pay for his expanded welfare program. We also established that he expressed some concern about the lack of skills training programs in this province.

We also established that the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) took \$64 million away from the minister's portfolio, away from Skills Development programs that were targeted for the older workers and women who today find themselves on those welfare rolls.

Last week the minister was not forthcoming with a clear statement and commitment to the Transitions program. Is the minister going to stand up to the Treasurer and get the funds the Premier (Mr. Peterson) already promised during

the election so that we can get on with the badly needed Transitions program?

1440

Hon. Mr. Curling: The honourable member stated I was not forthcoming with my response on Thursday. He is quite familiar with our Transitions program, which is quite a progressive program. It gives a \$5,000 voucher to older workers over 45 to seek retraining. I think that is a very progressive move on behalf of this government.

I have no problem at all in dealing with the Treasurer's coming forth with funds. At the moment, he should be quite familiar with the Ministry of Skills Development and he knows that the ministry itself is right on target with the type of programs it has, especially with Ontario's Training Strategy. He also knows, if I dare direct this to the member, that our training culture is moving along, and he will see a tremendous amount of progress in that direction.

Mr. Jackson: How can he announce forward progress when the Treasurer took \$64 million away from his ministry? The government managed the optics well on this severe problem. It went in and had a throne speech and a budget in the last year which were plastered with the commitment to older workers, but it took away \$64 million.

The media were on to it. They asked the Premier, "Where did you pull this one out of the hat eight or nine months after the statements?" The Premier stated, "The program just happens to be ready now." That was back on August 5. Not only do we not have the program but also the minister refuses to make a public statement about his commitment to those older workers.

Now we have the same scenario coming up again with what the Premier promised to get elected and what the Treasurer gave the minister in order to implement the programs. He cannot do it with \$64 million less. When is the minister going to announce his commitment to the Transitions program so that the Minister of Community and Social Services will not have a serious problem with growing welfare rolls in this province?

Mr. Speaker: Order. You have asked the question.

Mr. Jackson: When is he going to stand up for them?

Hon. Mr. Curling: I am trying to understand the honourable member's question.

Mr. Jackson: When is he going to bring in Transitions?

Hon. Mr. Curling: The Transitions program is in operation. I do not understand the honourable member's question. He asked when I am going to bring it in. It is in operation. That has been announced. It is on its way and it is working.

ONTARIO FISHERIES ADVISORY COUNCIL

Mr. Hampton: My question is for the Minister of Natural Resources. He will remember that I asked him last week about the appointment of a 12th member to the Ontario Fisheries Advisory Council, to come from an area west of Thunder Bay. I want to tell the minister I agree with him that this is a serious issue that should be thought about, but would the minister agree that this issue of resident fishing licences and the use to which we put the funds from them is so important to the people of northern Ontario, particularly northwestern Ontario, that the minister will look to appoint to the advisory council someone who is knowledgeable about fishing matters, experienced in fish conservation and dedicated to the cause? Would the minister give that commitment?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: The minister happens to feel the issue is so important to northern Ontario that we are putting more funds, percentage-wise, from selling licences into those areas than we are in any other part of Ontario. I tell the member straight out that has been taken into account already, and certainly the advisory council is going to go into the kind of depth to return that whole process and that resource back to the people of Ontario as it existed some 15 or 20 years ago. I have no other purpose except to do that. We now have people all across the province who are functioning on that committee under the chairmanship of Dr. Crossman, who is a well-recognized biologist worldwide, and I cannot imagine that there could be any criticism of how this is being handled across this province.

I have told the member that I was going to have a new member on that advisory committee because we agreed that we would get it in place and that if we needed a couple more, so be it. For all the pressures the member is putting on me, our member from the area is very much involved and brought that to my attention a good long time ago.

Mr. Hampton: I am glad to hear that the minister has confirmed his concern, and I am glad to hear that he feels the people who have been appointed to the committee already are good people and that he will ensure that people in

the future are dedicated to the cause, are knowledgeable about it and have some experience with it.

I want to ask the minister how he explains the situation that has occurred in the past week. A fellow who was nominated by zone 1 of the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, who has 16 years' experience in the federation, who is the past president of a sportsmen's club, who has been very active in fish conservation and generally in fisheries issues and who was nominated, as I say, by zone 1 of the anglers and hunters, was told by a person who was acting for the defeated Liberal candidate in my riding that it would be very unlikely for this gentleman who has this experience and this knowledge to be appointed to the Ontario Fisheries Advisory Council, not because he lacks knowledge, not because he lacks dedication, not because he lacks experience but because he does not come from a Liberal riding. Is that how it is going to be done?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: If we look at the members who are on the advisory council right now, we will find that they come from every particular party in this province and that, in fact, they were not chosen because of the party they represent but rather for the input they can give this particular advisory committee.

When the member describes an individual with the background he mentions and says he should have a right to sit on the advisory council, I want to tell him that the people who are on the advisory council come with the kind of attributes he has just described; but to suggest that we are keeping someone off for political reasons certainly is not the case. For the ones who are on there who happen to be good Liberals, I make no excuse for that, because I will tell the member, there are a lot of good Liberals out there with extremely good talent in every area of expertise that he has described, so I do not take that into account. It should not keep them off the board either; I might tell the member that.

Our member for Kenora (Mr. Miclash), who is very much involved in the area, has spoken of this with me two or three times. It may be that he may tell the member whom I choose to put on that committee.

NURSING

Mr. Eves: I have a question for the Minister of Health. Can the minister indicate to this House whether or not there are any nurse practitioners on the committee investigating the shortage of nurses in Ontario?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: Yes. The question, I believe, is whether there are nurse practitioners looking at the question of nursing manpower. I would be happy to provide the member with a list of the membership on that committee and I will have it for him tomorrow, if he would like.

Mr. Eves: Perhaps to refresh the minister's memory I might advise her that there are indeed no nurse practitioners on that committee or any other of the four health care policy committees that her ministry has set up. I would like to know why the largest group of health care workers in Ontario does not have one single representative on any of these five committees that her ministry has set up. Does the minister not think that is a little bit odd? There is not one nurse practitioner on any of those committees.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I would be interested in the definition from the member of "nurse practitioner." I am very concerned that all of our policy committees reflect the health care professionals from across this province. As a matter of fact, I spoke to the Ontario Nurses' Association recently at its convention and made a commitment to it, which I will repeat today in this House, to ensure that the perspective of the nursing profession as well as that of other health care professionals will be reflected on the committees which are advisory to the minister and advisory to this government in the area of health care and health care delivery.

1450

POLLUTION CONTROL

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I have a question to the Minister of the Environment. I would like to ask the minister if he is aware of a proposal by Ontario Hydro. They are looking at two possible options: new transmission lines to the Windsor area or the reopening of the J. Clark Keith generating plant.

I would like to ask the minister whether he can assure the House this afternoon that if the J. Clark Keith generating plant reopens, there will be an environmental assessment if it is opened up with coal. Can he also assure the House that he will not allow energy from waste being started at the J. Clark Keith generating plant if in fact that plant is to be reopened?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: Hydro is reviewing a number of different options at the present time. It depends, I guess, on the genuine demands there would be for electrical power in Ontario. I know there are many people who do not want Ontario Hydro to utilize coal-fired plants because of the emissions that take place from that. I know there

are a number of people in the province who do not want Ontario Hydro to build new nuclear generating stations because of the problems they see with nuclear generating stations. I know there are people in the province who do not want new water plants that might have an effect on the aquatic life and on the fishing and so on. The options are there.

Now, specifically to the question the member asked, I will be happy to review any proposal that would come to me to determine whether they have had approval in the past. Certainly any new initiative on the part of Ontario Hydro which would have an impact on the environment should receive a review from the provincial government and will do so. I will certainly undertake to look specifically at the anticipated proposal the member has brought to my attention.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Does the minister not understand that it is a little difficult for Ontario to be saying to Michigan, and to Detroit in particular, that we are against their incinerator when at the same time one of the possible options Ontario Hydro puts out is energy from waste or incineration at this particular plant and that by that announcement a couple of weeks ago we significantly weakened our position in negotiations and in fighting the incinerator in the city of Detroit?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: I think that the member tends, and I know it would never be deliberately, to confuse the two situations. His party insists in this Legislature on comparing apples and oranges.

What we have said with the Detroit incinerator—and he knows this, the people in Windsor know this and all members of the House know this—is that we are talking about a brand-new incinerator where they have an opportunity to put the scrubber baghouse technology on it. In Ontario, if we built a similar plant, or if any municipality built a similar plant, we would require scrubber baghouse technology.

We have not, as was stated a week ago, gone right across the state of Michigan and said, "You must retrofit all of your incinerators in the state." It may be an enviable goal. We have not said that in our particular fight over the Detroit incinerator.

Similarly, I think you would have to compare, if the state of Michigan were proposing a similar situation where there would not be state-of-the-art technology placed on it, of course we would be insisting upon that because we insist on it in Canada. But the member is comparing two entirely different things.

That does not mean the question is not important. It is. My friend asks a good question, and I have undertaken to review this completely, but I think it is very unfair and gives ammunition—and I am not saying the member would deliberately do so; he would not, I know that—but it does give arguments to the city of Detroit to use against us, and I think they would be very unfair arguments and unfair comparisons.

RADIOACTIVE SOIL

Mr. J. M. Johnson: My question is to the Minister of Government Services. Will the minister tell this House how long it will take the government to provide compensation to the home owners of McClure Crescent?

Hon. Mr. Patten: I thank the honourable member opposite. It is my understanding that if he is referring to those home owners who have experienced some difficulty with the soil conditions around their homes, the government has already offered a buyout situation to 40 home owners in that particular area, and 29 home owners to this stage have accepted that particular offer.

Mr. J. M. Johnson: These people live with the anxiety and fear of having lived over radioactive soil for the past several years. The government promised to deal with this problem as soon as taking office in 1985. In fact, as far back as 1983 the Premier (Mr. Peterson) himself was demanding action.

I think the Premier said nobody in his right mind should live in that situation. The minister says he has been offering compensation, but I understand there are a lot of delays and frustration with the way he is acting. What I would simply say to the minister and to the Premier is, what are they doing now?

Hon. Mr. Patten: What are we doing now? At the moment we have offered the compensation. The honourable member will know that the tests have been done, that there is the option for removal of this particular soil. The member will also know that radioactive soil is a responsibility of the federal government and at this particular point we are awaiting action by the federal government for that kind of disposal.

INCINERATORS

Mr. Offer: I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. As the minister is aware, there is currently a proposal for the construction of an incinerator at Pearson International Airport. It is clear that the project falls exclusively within federal jurisdiction. However, I have been

informed that, notwithstanding the exclusivity of jurisdiction, there are currently discussions going on between the federal and provincial ministries as to the possibility of this project proceeding in accordance with the more stringent provincial guidelines.

My question to the minister is whether these discussions have in fact taken place; and if so, whether the proposed incinerator, if approved, will comply with the more stringent provincial guidelines?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: The member may be aware that, being a proposal on federal property and initiated by the federal government, it comes under the jurisdiction of the federal government. That is why I have had my office communicate with the office of the Honourable Tom McMillan to express the viewpoint of Ontario that such a proposal should go through a very stringent process.

The federal government does have a process called EARP, the environmental assessment review process. There are some people who would contend that this process is not as stringent as that of Ontario, and I would certainly agree with that. Therefore, I have indicated to the minister that they could use the conditions we would apply in terms of an assessment in Ontario and that this would be very beneficial in this particular project.

Second, if any new incinerator were to be constructed in Ontario, even though it is on federal land, members of the House would know that we would insist upon the best available technology if we had jurisdiction over it. We expect the federal government would, too.

Mr. Offer: With respect to that, and in the event that provincial guidelines were utilized, are those particular guidelines enforceable in the event? Because, in this particular case, we are dealing with strict federal jurisdiction.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: The provincial government, of course, has very strict guidelines and very strict rules that have to be enforced. In the federal government, the Minister of Finance particularly has a specific interest in this. He has expressed an interest in this, as have members of the federal House as well. They would want to ensure that the guidelines would be adhered to.

I cannot see or understand why the federal government would want to vary at all from the very strictest of guidelines to protect the people who reside in that particular area, because I know those people have a genuine concern.

The member has mentioned at other times, for instance, that there are other incinerators pro-

posed for that area, this would be an additional one; this one is under federal jurisdiction, the others under municipal jurisdiction but under the regulatory process of Ontario. The member would want to ensure that the federal government applied the strictest possible controls, and I certainly agree with that.

1500

METROPOLITAN TORONTO GOVERNMENT

Mr. R. F. Johnston: My question is for the Minister of Education. I am glad the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley) could leave us a couple of minutes to deal with some other matters.

My question to the minister is regarding the recent announcement by the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Eakins) about the reform of the election of Metro council. Given that coterminous wards are obviously a part of the reality of election here, what discussions has the minister had with Minister of Municipal Affairs regarding the election of trustees in Metropolitan Toronto?

Could the minister outline the discussions he had with him and how they fit, in his view, with the recommendations by the Joint Committee on Trustee Distribution to the Minister of Education?

Hon. Mr. Ward: In responding to my friend, I would like to indicate that the recommendations that were forthcoming from the Minister of Municipal Affairs as they relate to Metropolitan Toronto are indeed consistent with the recommendations that were contained in the joint report of the trustees and that conversations and discussions were ongoing between the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs. Through those discussions it was made clear that we would have the flexibility to effect changes with regard to trustee representation in Metropolitan Toronto under the proposed legislation.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Not only would it take mathematical magic to make the formula established for electing Metro councillors fit the recommendations of that joint committee report to the Ministry of Education, it would also, I think the minister might agree—or would he agree—run against these final two recommendations.

The first: "The entire election process, including the method of determining board size and trustee apportionments, be reviewed within one year following the 1988 elections."

The last one: "That the Metropolitan Toronto School Board and the area boards of education within Metropolitan Toronto be asked to recommend how the principles or recommendations contained in this report may be applied to their unique circumstances," because they are the only ones who could recommend how it should be dealt with.

It very clearly says it should not be done hastily, that it will take several years after 1988 to make this work. It seems to me that what we have had here, and would the minister not agree, is something imposed by the Municipal Affairs minister which does not assist at all in the way the joint committee reported to him in terms of what is required for the boards.

Hon. Mr. Ward: The report of the joint committee was forwarded directly to the Metropolitan Toronto School Board and its member boards immediately as it became available. Again, the Toronto board has responded to that correspondence and that request for a response; it has asked for an extension of time to respond directly. At the same time, in consultation with the Minister of Municipal Affairs, we have made it clear that any legislation have a proviso so that we can take the response of the Metro board and superimpose whatever representative structure is necessary to accommodate the needs of the board, consistent with the legislation that is proposed for Metropolitan Toronto.

ABANDONED RAIL LINE

Mr. Pollock: I have a question for the Minister of Tourism and Recreation. The minister is well aware of the abandoned railroad line, known as the Marmora subdivision, that runs from his riding right through to Lake St. Peter. Hastings county council, along with a lot of other municipalities, has recommended that abandoned railroad line be taken over by the Ontario government, either by the Ministry of Tourism or by the Ministry of Natural Resources. The Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio) has said he is not going to take it over. Will the minister provide funding for the takeover of that abandoned railroad line as a recreation trail?

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: I appreciate the question from the member. I know it is a matter of concern in our area and likely in other areas also. I have had letters that support the government taking it over and other letters that are not in support. I can tell the honourable member that we are looking at this very carefully, and I would hope to report back to him very shortly.

Mr. Pollock: Would the minister not agree that this taking over of this particular railroad line would provide funding and business for tourism and recreation in that area of eastern Ontario where it is badly needed?

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: I believe anything that can contribute to tourism in any part of the province and in eastern Ontario is very important; that is why we are having a very careful look at this particular request.

RADIOACTIVE SOIL

Mr. Cousens: I have a question for the Minister of Housing.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Sorry.

Mr. Cousens: No, I have a chance to—

Mr. Speaker: A brief question.

Mr. Cousens: A brief question dealing with 100 houses or so on McClure Crescent. Of those houses, approximately 40 of the residents have been looked after through the courts and through other areas, but the remaining 60 or so families in those houses on McClure Crescent would like to know what the minister and her ministry are going to do to protect them, inasmuch as the Premier (Mr. Peterson) and former Minister of Housing made a commitment that they would look after all the people on that street and in that area.

What is the minister going to do about the people in those houses—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The question has been asked.

Mr. Cousens: —the 60 who have—

Mr. Speaker: You have asked the question.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I want to refer that question to the Minister of Government Services (Mr. Patten).

Mr. Speaker: The question has been referred to the Minister of Government Services.

Mr. Cousens: Objection. The minister did not answer—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Patten: I believe I answered that question as part of my first response in the House when I said that people still have an option. Forty home owners in that area have been offered the opportunity to sell their homes, and 29 have exercised that particular option. The government has provided the support, the testing facilities, working with the Ministry of the Environment and with the federal government, to see that the situation is under control.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Time for oral questions has expired. Order.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL

MUNICIPALITY OF METROPOLITAN TORONTO AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Eakins moved first reading of Bill 29, An Act to amend the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto Act.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Eakins: This bill provides for a directly elected Metropolitan council composed of 28 directly elected Metropolitan councillors and the six mayors. The chairman will be chosen by the Metropolitan council from among the directly elected councillors and will continue to represent a Metropolitan ward. Statutory executive committees and boards of control will be abolished.

As I noted in my statement to the House on November 4, this legislation is a result of a long process of study and consultation. The process began in February 1986 when my predecessor set up a task force on representation and accountability of Metropolitan Toronto. It is my pleasure to oversee the successful conclusion of this process by introducing this bill today.

1510

ORDERS OF THE DAY

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Hon. Mr. Conway moved resolution 2.

Reading dispensed with [see Votes and Proceedings].

Motion agreed to.

COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

Hon. Mr. Conway moved resolution 3.

Reading dispensed with [see Votes and Proceedings].

Motion agreed to.

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

(continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

Mr. Speaker: As I recall, last Thursday evening the member for Etobicoke-Humber (Mr. Henderson) finished his comments, but our standing orders allow for any other members to

ask any questions or make any comments on those comments. Are there any?

Mr. Cousens: To the member for Etobicoke-Humber, whose presentation on Thursday last had a number of points that I find extremely interesting, I was wondering if he was in a position to support the free trade agreement, as the Premier (Mr. Peterson) is in a position to represent Ontario on that subject. The member says, "It is true that we have in this freer trade deal an imperfect, even flawed agreement, but the principle of free trade, and freer trade, between nations is a good one and in the best traditions of liberalism."

The member goes on to give a number of reasons why the agreement does touch an important need for Ontario. Would his recommendation be one of support of even this flawed agreement, as he has described it, to the Premier of this province? I would be very interested in the views of the member on that subject.

I would also be interested to know if the member has any further concerns about the Meech Lake agreement. I got the Instant Hansard and read it over the weekend and I feel that he has made a number of very strong and good points. In what way can we in this Legislature bring this to a better discussion so that there is truly going to be some reconsideration of the Meech Lake agreement, and possibly the inclusion in that of something about property rights? Has the member any thoughts on that?

I have to compliment the honourable member for his honesty and for the presentation he made in response to the speech from the throne. I appreciate the candour that he has given us.

Mr. Henderson: As I understand it, the member for Markham (Mr. Cousens) asks whether I, on balance, support this current agreement. My answer is, as I think I said on Thursday, that I am supportive of the principle of freer trade among the trading nations of the world; I am, in that sense, a free trader.

I believe that objective can be best reached on a multilateral international basis, although we have to remember in Canada that when we talk about things that are international, at least in matters of trade, the fact that 70 per cent of our trade is with the United States makes it a trading partner that is just a little bit different from any of our other trading partners.

But I favour the notion of freer trade. I favour it especially when it is on a multilateral basis. I believe that proceeding through the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, despite its potential drawbacks—GATT is cumbersome,

time-consuming and subject to delays—would be the best way to do it. I think the Premier's call for a six-month moratorium on the finalization of the arrangement has a lot to be said for it, because the debate on this subject has generated so much more heat than light, in my view.

To come back to the member's question, I do not feel that at the moment I can say I support this deal in its current form, notwithstanding that we do not really know its current form. We do not have the final text, so I am not saying that I support the deal, the exact nature of which we are not sure, but I am a free trader. I do not have much more to say about Meech Lake.

Mr. Speaker: The member's time has expired. Any further debate?

Mr. Farnan: First of all, I would like to thank the people of Cambridge for the honour they bestowed upon me on September 10, 1987, the honour of representing them as a New Democrat in the official opposition in the 34th Parliament of Ontario. It is particularly gratifying to me to have been elected as a New Democrat at a time when Liberal fortunes were experiencing such a dramatic rise.

Never mind that I was elected with the smallest majority of any member in this House; I am sure there must have been some errors in the vote tally. I am assured by 90 per cent of the Cambridge residents I meet that indeed they voted for me, and my informal analysis of these encounters would lead me to believe that I won the election with a whopping plurality of over 10,000 votes rather than the 101 votes recorded in the official results.

But I do wish to say thank you and assure my community that I view my role as representing all members of the community and all groups within the community. I intend to bring the same dedication and commitment to my position of member of the provincial parliament that I demonstrated during my years as alderman with the city of Cambridge.

I believe in a maiden speech it is customary to expound on the virtues of one's home community and I am sure members will be interested to learn something about my community, the city of Cambridge, which is located midway between Toronto and London on Main Street, Ontario, the Macdonald-Cartier Freeway, Highway 401.

Cambridge, within the regional municipality of Waterloo, has a market in excess of one million people within a 30-mile radius, six million within 65 miles and nearly 200 million within one day's trucking. The city of Cambridge has continued to experience a strong rate of

growth since the amalgamation of the former towns of Preston and Hespeler and the city of Galt in 1973.

Cambridge is conveniently located within one hour of two international airports and two seaports. It is also positioned to take advantage of its proximity to major US markets. I suppose it could be said we are in an ideal location, far from the problems we do not need and still close to everything we do.

One of the most important benefits Cambridge offers is an enjoyable lifestyle. We are blessed with beautiful rivers, parks and year-round recreational facilities. Residents for the most part live close to their place of work and to convenient shopping areas.

The present population of Cambridge is approximately 81,000 and can boast a rich diversity of ethnic backgrounds among its residents. Cambridge has an excellent supply of skilled and semi-skilled labour and the labour force is continually improving its skill levels by utilizing those educational facilities available in our area.

The high calibre of elementary and secondary schooling available in our region is a credit to the Waterloo County Board of Education and to the Waterloo County Roman Catholic Separate School Board. Our community is also well served by Conestoga College of Applied Arts and Technology and the universities of Waterloo, Wilfrid Laurier and Guelph.

Research, development and technology training are all aspects of a forward-looking community. A key part of Ontario's technology effort is the development of industrial technology centres, and the city of Cambridge is the site of the Ontario Centre for Computer-Aided Design and Computer-Aided Manufacturing.

We are also fortunate to be hooked into the Canadian Industrial Innovation Centre, a non-profit, federally sponsored corporation associated with the University of Waterloo. This centre offers a full range of assistance to entrepreneurs and inventors.

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While Cambridge is experiencing industrial and commercial growth, it is also, thanks to the efforts of our city council, business improvement areas and Heritage Cambridge, undergoing a process of revitalization. The city of Cambridge was selected by the Heritage Canada Foundation for its Main Street program. Extensive work has been undertaken on our Living Levee, a river-bank flood protection project with the added significant dimension of beautification.

Cambridge is a wonderful community to visit at any time of year. Factory outlets and local tourist attractions in close proximity to our community are drawing more and more visitors to our area. Special annual events such as the Kinsmen Carnival, the Cambridge International Festival, the Cambridge Highland Games, the CanAmerica Games, the Cambridge Fall Fair, the Cambridge Riverbank Festival and, for the first time this year, the Cambridge Grand Christmas, are adding to our reputation as an area of growing significance to tourism. Add to these the many restaurants, hotels, motels and meeting rooms available and it is little wonder that Cambridge is also attracting more and more conventions of the small-to-medium size.

First of all, a throne speech is a major document. It is an opportunity for the government to outline the direction it intends to take the province. I am reluctant to give a knee-jerk negative reaction. A throne speech deserves to be studied in depth and to have a critical analysis made of it. Having said that, I am frankly somewhat disappointed over what appears to be a lost opportunity. This speech does not constitute a reform agenda.

In the previous parliamentary session, the New Democrats provided an impetus for reform by writing the historic accord agenda with definite time lines for implementation. As the government, the Liberals got most of the credit for the reforms and their electoral success on September 10 was based to a great extent, I believe, on the expectation that they would maintain a reform agenda. Yet the speech is surprisingly lacking in initiative. It is very much a status quo approach, reminiscent of the latter years of Conservative rule.

Of the 67 initiatives listed in the throne speech and the press release from the Office of the Premier, only 17 could be said to be new, and several of these new initiatives are merely the setting up of select committees. Committees are a good make-work project to keep the horde of Liberal back-benchers occupied and are a strategy to stretch the resources of the relatively small opposition ranks. However, it must be apparent that despite a huge majority government's ability to enact legislation pretty much as it wishes, the government's main agenda items seem to be studies and more studies. This, I fear, is a prescription for inaction. Only time will tell.

Despite the lofty language and restatement of broad principles, we find throughout the list of initiatives the recurrence of procrastinating phrases. Here is a selection: "We will continue to

implement," "encourage the development of," "appoint a committee," "refer the issue," "reintroduce," "appoint a committee," "reaffirm our commitment to," "increase public awareness of," "review," "appoint a committee," "continue to press for," "examine ways," "appoint a committee." In the absence of creative policy directions and leadership on the part of the government, it would appear that the single most clearly defined direction of this government is to committee the opposition to death.

In addressing the throne speech, I have chosen to concentrate on two areas, namely, education and housing; and in limiting my focus, I hope to be able to make substantive statements in these areas rather than touch on the wide variety of issues referred to in the speech from the throne. I have also selected these two areas because I believe them to be major issues affecting my community of Cambridge, also the province, and issues that the government must come to terms with in the years ahead.

I believe the housing and accommodation crisis to be the greatest single challenge facing the government of Ontario. The details of the housing needs that exist have been expounded at considerable length in the recent emergency debate on housing and in the responses of many members to the throne speech. I was hoping that this government was serious in its stated intent to tackle the housing problems in a dramatic and serious manner. Unfortunately, there appears to be a significant difference between what the government promised and what it will attempt to deliver.

During the 1987 election, with great fanfare, the government promised to produce 102,000 rental units by 1989. Sounds good, but read the small print. The Liberal government now includes all units built since 1985 and is extending the building period to 1990. It also intends to include in the 102,000 figure the 36,000 units kept on the market through renovation and rejuvenation.

I do not doubt the sincerity of the honourable Minister of Housing (Ms. Hošek), that she is concerned or that she genuinely wants to solve this serious problem, but I have witnessed nothing to date that would lead me to believe that a new and imaginative mind is addressing this issue. On the contrary, the continued application of worn and tired policies that have proved ineffective in the past appears to be the solution proffered. The policy appears to be: if it does not work, let us throw more bureaucrats at it. Little

wonder that the paperwork mounts and the confusion increases.

To provide evidence of how the government has added confusion to the housing situation, let me detail for members how the government has failed to address issues related to the co-ordination of similar programs from various ministries in the human resources field.

In the Waterloo region, for example, four ministries have implemented independent and unco-ordinated housing registries. The Ministry of Health is funding a housing registry to serve former psychiatric patients; the Ministry of Community and Social Services is funding a housing registry to serve youths 16 to 24 years of age; the Ministry of Housing is funding a housing registry to serve single parents and the elderly; the ministry responsible for the physically disabled is funding a housing registry to serve the physically disabled.

This profile of unco-ordinated initiatives represents a very wasteful use of resources and, in addition, provides considerable confusion to potential users. For example, where does a 22-year-old single parent who is physically disabled, with a medical history of depression, go for help in finding affordable housing? And we wonder why persons in such circumstances, falling as they do into all four categories of housing registries, might be discouraged and confused. The Minister of Housing wants more bureaucrats? I sincerely hope they will be put to more effective use than what I have just described.

I would suggest to the Minister of Housing that the real concern in the area of housing is not just one of social housing availability and lack of rental units but also one of affordability in the housing market. In the Waterloo region the cost of housing has increased much more rapidly than the rate of inflation, and rental accommodation is at a premium. This is true, for the most part, throughout the province. Not only for those on pensions, fixed incomes and low wages but also for many moderate- and medium-income families, the pressure has become so great that far too many are experiencing difficulties in finding affordable housing. I personally believe that the government should declare war on the housing crisis. It is not a problem to be solved with Band-Aid solutions.

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Developers are building at the upper end of the housing market, and the housing needs of upper-middle- and upper-income groups are for the most part being met while the housing needs

of low- and medium-income families are neglected. Upper-middle- and upper-income housing is the area of greatest profitability. Little wonder it is the area catered to by the development industry.

It is abundantly clear to me that a major new initiative must be undertaken by the government. There must be a well-researched plan to meet our present and future housing needs, and there must be a strong political will on the part of the government to implement this plan.

I would suggest the following strategy to the minister in formulating a plan to meet the present and future housing needs of Ontario. The Ontario housing strategy plan should address our housing needs up to the year 2000 and beyond and should include: the range and cost of housing options, single-family, multiple-family, apartment, condominium, etc.; the range of income groups, the number within each group and their ability to afford the various housing options; the ability of strategies currently employed by the province to address identified needs; innovative strategies currently employed by other jurisdictions to meet similar needs effectively; and the application of strategies that will best address the needs identified by the plan. This is a straightforward approach, but it is one that must be undertaken if we are to come to terms with the housing crisis in a meaningful manner.

It would be absolutely senseless and irresponsible for the government to allow the present pattern in the housing market to continue. I presented a similar model to the council of the city of Cambridge. It was unanimously approved and is presently being implemented. However, individual councils cannot resolve the housing crisis in isolation. Leadership, direction and support must be forthcoming from the provincial government. The goal of any housing strategy must be to provide housing and accommodation that is affordable for the people who need it.

One of my concerns is in the nonprofit sector. It is often presumed that these projects are nonprofit, but this is far from the truth or the reality. All involved in design and construction make a profit. From the architectural drawings to the building to the landscaping work, all is undertaken on the basis of profit. I have no problems at all with the profit factor. My concern is that after everyone has had a piece of the action, the units involved are often more costly than can be afforded by those in most need of the accommodation and for whom the units were built in the first place.

To some extent, I believe the policies of the government in funding myriads of small and independent projects add to the costs of the units. Small boards are sometimes formed simply in response to the availability of a government program. Lack of experience with the development industry and inability to take advantage of economies of scale often add unnecessarily to the cost of units. I have often wondered why the government does not take advantage of the housing authorities to a much greater extent. These authorities certainly have the expertise and could provide the economies of scale necessary to provide housing at a more affordable level. Certainly one requires local co-ordination of nonprofit housing efforts and projects within communities. I would suggest to the minister that a valuable and important resource is being wasted by the failure to harness the experience of the housing authorities effectively.

I would further suggest to the minister that immediate steps could be taken to control the widespread speculation that exists in the housing market. I recall a friend of mine involved in the real estate business who informed me that he received a call from a Toronto speculator who purchased 12 homes, sight unseen, in a new subdivision in Cambridge. No doubt these homes were subsequently sold at well above the original cost. Again, one is reluctant to criticize initiative, but in cases such as this I believe the action of the speculator to be morally and ethically wrong.

Housing is a basic necessity of life, and young couples saving for their first home either are being forced to pay unreasonable prices or, because of the scarcity of affordable housing, are having to do without a home of their own.

This problem is not only caused by the professional barracudas of the marketplace but also by many home owners. Themselves secure in a home they were fortunate enough to purchase at a reasonable market price, they now see in the present crisis an opportunity for financial gain. House flipping has added thousands of dollars to the price of a home, extracted from young home buyers. A government that fails to take swift, tough action to eliminate these abuses must itself be held morally responsible.

Another area to which I would direct the attention of the minister is the whole matter of contracts. It would appear to me that it is not unreasonable to demand from a contractor who is earning a handsome profit for his work a contract that is written in clear and simple language and that is not designed to add confusion and

uncertainty. Further, it is not unreasonable to demand that penalties be imposed upon contractors who do not live up to their commitments. I have heard of far too many incidents where contractors have failed to live up to their obligations.

Again I would call on the minister for decisive action that would provide home buyers with greater protection for warranty work and ensure that completion and delivery dates are met by the contractors. The purchase of a home should be a happy and joyous occasion but, unfortunately, for far too many it has become a nightmare.

I turn now to the field of education. One of the areas that received considerable attention in the throne speech was education. The stated initiatives in this area included, among others: renewing the emphasis on quality education during the early school years from kindergarten to grade 6; reducing class size in grades 1 and 2; increasing the availability and use of computers and related software; providing additional moneys for textbooks and learning materials; enhancing the role of TVOntario in terms of elementary and secondary school programming; establishing child care spaces for school-aged children; developing new standards for measuring student achievement, and promoting literacy programs and services for all citizens.

These initiatives are not without merit. Indeed, who would argue against additional child care spaces or addressing the issue of illiteracy as it exists in our province?

In my riding of Cambridge, for educational purposes it is served by the Waterloo County Board of Education and the Waterloo County Roman Catholic Separate School Board. As an individual who has spent some 23 years of my life as an educator, I have a particular interest in the field of education and I took the liberty to consult with educational leaders within my community with regard to the initiatives outlined in the throne speech. They had little argument with the general thrust of the text as it pertained to education. Strong feelings were expressed, however, with regard to local needs, realities and priorities. I suspect their concerns would be consistent with those of the rest of the educators and boards across the province. I have listed some of these concerns:

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1. The provincial rate of grant to school boards should not be less than 60 per cent. Indeed, it is the government's stated intention to assume 60 per cent of approved education costs in this province. However, at the present time the

percentage of approved education costs assumed by the government has slipped to well below 50 per cent. As evidence that this circumstance is creating serious hardship for school boards, 85 per cent of both elementary and secondary panels in this province are forced to spend over their ceilings. The promised 60 per cent provincial rate of grant to school boards has not been addressed in the throne speech.

2. The recognized provincial grant ceiling should be raised to realistic levels. If the government is serious in its attempts to ensure that every child in this province has access to an appropriate educational program which will lead to the achievement of his or her educational goals, the 1988 recognized ordinary expenditure ceilings for elementary and secondary schools must be raised significantly closer to the 60 per cent level. Again, this concern is not addressed in the throne speech, nor can we be sure if the recent economic statement of the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) moves in any significant manner towards the 60 per cent ceiling.

3. Capital requirements are critical. Moneys are needed for new schools as well as for maintaining, upgrading and renovating existing ageing facilities. The government must continue to address the issue of capital funding for new pupil places in high-growth areas.

The Waterloo county public school system, for example, already has over 180 portables, and this number is growing each year. The Waterloo region separate school board, with a kindergarten to grade 12 Ontario academic course enrolment of 17,200 students, has nearly 100 portables, or about 15 per cent of its student population in portable accommodation, and each year the situation worsens. The financial strain on these boards is compounded because a number of existing schools, especially in the older sections of our three cities, where many younger families are now relocating, require significant upgrading in order to ensure equality of educational opportunity throughout the region. For example, the Waterloo county board recently spent \$6 million to renovate Galt Collegiate and Vocational Institute. The province provided no moneys to this project even though the need was evident.

It is also important that the government pay special attention and provide appropriate financial support to those areas of the province that are undergoing a period of expansion and growth. This is true of the Waterloo region in general and of Cambridge in particular. I need hardly remind the Minister of Education (Mr. Ward) and the

government that special attention must be given to the Hespeler area and to the eastern sections of the city of Cambridge, where we have experienced significant residential expansion, with ensuing demands being made on our school systems, which are already stretching their resources to the limit.

It is in this context that we must view and evaluate what might be considered important and welcome initiatives on the part of the government. If the government, as it spelled it out in the throne speech, is going to lower class size in grades 1 and 2, where is it going to find space for the students and the teachers? Again, this very important question is not addressed in the throne speech.

4. Planning time has a priority with the elementary school federations; witness the recent Toronto elementary school teachers' strike. Boards of education across the province will need to address this issue with their local bargaining units, and this will require additional financial resources. Again, this was not addressed in the speech from the throne.

5. The delivery of quality French-language programs and services is an issue of critical importance to students, parents and teachers. The whole area of French-language instruction is very complex and controversial. Again, this was not addressed in the speech from the throne.

The questions I would ask are these. Have these stated initiatives on the part of the government been achieved through a process of real consultation? Realizing that our financial resources are not unlimited and that we must allocate our dollars wisely, do the government's stated initiatives reflect the top priorities of the boards of education and our teachers' professional associations, which are ultimately responsible for the implementation of quality education in Ontario?

I would suggest to the government that off-the-cuff policy directives, arrived at in the course of an election campaign, cannot substitute for real consultation and for identifying, in concert with the school boards, teachers' professional associations and parent groups, what the real priorities are that must be addressed if we are to get on with the job of fostering a first-rate public system of education in Ontario.

Unless the government comes through with real dollars commensurate with the scope of the stated initiatives, it is my belief that it will merely have compounded the burden and concerns that presently confront the education system in this province.

In brief, the problem with the government's message in the area of education is not what was said but, rather, what was not said and what was not addressed.

As I mentioned earlier, I have limited myself to addressing these two major areas because they are the areas of great concern to me and to my community and, I am sure, are of real concern across the province. It is my intention to monitor the government's response in these areas, and I promise I will continue to provide constructive criticism of the government to ensure that affordable housing is made available to all the residents of Ontario and that our education system is properly funded to guarantee quality education for all our children.

In conclusion, I would simply like to add that, together with my staff at Queen's Park and in my constituency office, I consider the residents of Cambridge to be my employers. We are determined to serve the residents of Cambridge efficiently and effectively, both with individual problems and concerns and with matters that affect groups or the community as a whole.

I look forward to the years ahead, years in which I can serve the people of Cambridge faithfully. I intend to be an effective member of the official opposition and to work diligently to hold the government accountable and responsible for its actions. I am determined to provide constructive criticism of the government and to ensure that the interests and concerns of the residents of Cambridge and of the people of Ontario are adequately addressed.

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Mr. Cousens: I am pleased to rise and participate in this important debate at the beginning of a new parliament. It is the first session of the 34th Parliament of the province.

To begin, I would like to compliment the gentleman who read that speech from the throne, who indeed is doing such a magnificent job in representing Her Majesty the Queen in this great province. His Honour Lincoln Alexander and his wife are indeed doing a magnificent job in conveying that sense of concern and compassion, that involvement with the community, to the highest echelons and right through the communities at every level. How fortunate we are that there is someone as dedicated to the wellbeing and good of the province as our Lieutenant Governor and his wife. I think that is the spirit of democracy at its best, where there are dedicated people who are doing so much to make it succeed.

Also, I would like to pass on a compliment to the people behind the front rows of the government—there are not many here—those who really are the hardworking bureaucracy, the civil servants.

Interjection.

Mr. Cousens: It is quality that we have got today.

The deputy ministers, the senior staff, the grass-roots supporters who are out there working in each ministry and who are trying to serve the people of this province are the backbone so that, whoever is elected to run it, there is still a quality group of conscientious people who are doing something good for this province. We should recognize their support of government policies, their implementation of them, and realize that behind these front benches is the strength that makes Ontario as strong as it is.

To them and their staffs, especially in the portfolios where I am trying to bring to the attention of this House different problems, I would like to make it very clear that it is not the ministry itself, the staff and the people behind it, that I am criticizing. I am trying to direct my concerns and those of our party, as a critic, to the policymaking area that the ministers are failing to address. I will get to that in a moment.

I would also like to pass on my compliments to the new Clerk of the Legislature who, since he has come, has been able to show that he is the right person. Though I miss the previous Clerk, who was a personal friend and still is, I think the Clerk and his staff continue to do an important job for this Legislature. We could not begin to have our Orders and Notices and the whole proceedings of the Legislature flow without their continued hard work.

Also, I would like to give credit to someone else. Our party has gone through difficult times in the last short time. I am sorry that the electoral process has meant that the former leader of our party, who still is leader because he has not written the letter that says he is giving up the responsibility, will not be sitting in this House. I feel indebted to Larry Grossman for the many years of hard work that he gave not only to the people of his own riding but also to the people of Ontario.

In fact, it is a different House now. There are a number of cabinet ministers who had served in previous governments who are no longer here. A level of experience had been built up over time in such people as the Honourable Bette Stephenson, the Honourable Claude Bennett and the Honourable Nick Leluk. So many of these people are no

longer with us in this House that it puts a special onus on all of us to make sure we continue to draw upon the experience of those who may know better than we and to use them as advisers and supporters in the process of fulfilling our own responsibilities as members of the Legislature.

I would like also to recognize that the people of Markham had quite a decision to make on September 10, and I am indeed honoured to be their representative again. It is the seventh election I have won—I was thinking of what was going to happen in this seventh one—the third time to the Ontario House and four terms as a school trustee on the York Region Board of Education.

I do want at least to say at the very beginning, as we review the future in this new 34th Parliament, that indeed the electoral process did work and that the candidates for the Liberals, the New Democratic Party and the Family Coalition Party were creditable candidates. I have to compliment the people of Markham for having respected all of us as we participated in the democratic process.

Democracy does work. It has its good points and its bad.

Mr. Leone: It worked this time.

Mr. Cousens: It worked this time. It did indeed, and the honourable member certainly understands how it works. I just happen to believe that it continues to work and people are looking for responsible leadership.

We begin this speech from the throne in a sense in which, as we come into this House, we have a great responsibility. Sensitive to that, we realize we are only here because on September 10 the people of Ontario made a decision as to whom they thought could best support them. The Liberals, with 95 seats, certainly won an overwhelming mandate to do something. That is a credit—

Interjection.

Mr. Cousens: The member may clap, and I certainly acknowledge it, with respect to the process.

It means that the Liberals have sold the people of Ontario on a vision of what they will do. As members of the Legislature, they attracted a certain support level that is unprecedented in this province. The people of Ontario are now saying, "We hope for good things to come out of the government."

On this side of the House, I can share in that expectation, an expectation that says, "There will be change and it will be for the better, and

there will be a sense of importance given to the small person and the big person, a sense of vision for business people to succeed." That election campaign was one that said: "Trust me. I'll be there doing something for you."

I say, "Trust everybody, but cut the cards." Now that we have started to cut the deck, I think the level of trust and the expectation people had from this government are somewhat less than what they had hoped for.

I am critic for three general areas. One is housing, another is senior citizens' affairs and another is Metro and urban affairs. Certainly on the housing side, there was a promise made during the election campaign that must have won at least 50 seats, or most of the seats in Metro Toronto, when in an advertisement in the *Globe and Mail* this government made a commitment to provide 102,000 affordable rental units by 1989 in Ontario. I assume it was Ontario, because that is where they were running.

It was not 100,000, it was not 50,000, but by 1989 there would be 102,000 more affordable rental units in this province. That is a good number. I do not know how they got it. I do not know where they drew it out from, but it is a good number and let us hold this government to it—102,000 rental units, affordable units.

When are they going to do something about it? They are almost through the first 100 days and this government has not begun to address the need of people who need housing.

Interjection.

Mr. Cousens: They have not. Where is their 102,000? I tell them that they will stand judged by the people of Ontario, because they hope to see that number fulfilled. If they do not start coming out with the plan now, how will they begin to have those houses ready for occupancy for people by December 1989? There is a problem. It is a problem in making a commitment and not following it through.

I see this as a very important challenge for this government. There probably are not enough craftsmen and lay workers and probably not enough mortar and other things to make it happen. But come along; come out with the vision. They gave the vision. It was part of the promise. Is this going to be one of those promises that go unfulfilled? It is going to give politicians a bad name if they do not come through with these houses. The people are not going to trust anybody if they do not come out with them.

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: We had that for 42 years.

Mr. Cousens: I am putting the words back. The government is going to hear this and the people of Ontario are going to have one measuring stick: that is how many houses, how many affordable units were constructed or created in that time frame? The number that is coming through from the present Minister of Housing is about 66,000, far short of the promise in the election campaign.

I have that copy from the *Globe and Mail*. I know it off by heart. It is 102,000 affordable rental units by 1989. Where are they? We have a crisis in Ontario; the crisis is housing. It is the major social issue in this province. Unless they are going to do something about it, unless they are going to come up with a plan, then they are going to have failed the people of this province. The other problems are all there as well, but let us deal with housing.

1600

We have a problem with student accommodation in this province. During the election campaign, just a few short blocks from here, the Premier (Mr. Peterson)—

Mr. Ballinger: Now there is nobody left.

Mr. Leone: You are emptying the gallery.

Mr. Cousens: I am driving them away. Maybe we will have to call for a quorum. If they were from my riding, they would be sitting there proud of the fact that I am here bringing these guys to task and facing up to the truth. I think they would very pleased to have someone at least putting it on the record that they have failed or are failing so badly.

The students in Ontario have a crisis in student accommodation. It was recognized by the Premier when he spoke on the campus of the University of Toronto. Those were lovely promises the Premier made that day. He was going to do something about student accommodation and there would be 5,000 units for students. It would be a total of \$5 million now. Over a period of 25 years, with mortgages and other things, it would cost \$65 million, but that was going to be something this government would do.

It was not even mentioned in the speech from the throne. The students who go back to school or start school next September have a massive problem trying to find a place at McMaster, at the U of T, at Waterloo and at Queen's. Every university suffers the plight of not having enough accommodation for its students; yet what is this government doing about the student accommodation problem? It was not even mentioned in the

speech from the throne. They make a promise. The promise means something. Let us do something about it.

There was another promise that came out during the election campaign that affected the home ownership plan, a very interesting way of trying to help the first-time home buyer make the down payment for his first home. That is an important dollar that is spent. Probably the most important dollar any of us will ever spend is when we buy our own home. What has happened to that great proposal? Where is it?

The Minister of Housing said out of the House one day—alluded, anyway—to some interviewers, “We will have it in place by the end of this year so that it is available for the 1987 tax year.” That was good. I would really love to see her do something about it. I would love even better to see the Treasurer make an announcement, but instead I think we are going to be waiting for a budget speech some time next year.

Meanwhile, what is happening to that first-time new home buyer? They announced during the election campaign that they were going to do something to help people buy a home, and then they have a strategy of a \$10,000 plan where a person can put in \$1,000 a year for up to 10 years. Then what is going to happen? The restriction, as it was described, is that a person has to be making under \$40,000 a year.

It might be OK in other parts of Ontario, in Penetanguishene or Stirling or some other places. May I suggest to the members that one cannot find a house in Metropolitan Toronto for under \$200,000. By the time you take a person’s salary of around \$40,000, which is the maximum level they will allow this plan to apply to, and then you come along and try to buy a house, you will not be able to qualify for a mortgage.

Mr. Farnan: More than we make.

Mr. Cousens: Well, most people out there are earning it.

We have to come up with a solution for the new home buyer, the person who is buying his first-time home so that he can have that chance to save up some money and invest it. They should not just have a little plan where they make a promise; they should come out with a few other things that make it into a package.

The package could well be that they will lift the whole problem of lot levies for the new home buyer. Maybe they will come out with a grant to a person who is buying his first home. Maybe there will be a combination of things because, by the time we reach 10 years from now, that \$10,000 in that new home ownership plan will probably be

worth about \$5,000 and by then property might be double what it is today. Especially with the deficit this government is coming out with, inflation is going to come back to us. We are not going to be in a position where people will be able to afford to buy their own homes.

This is going to be the one time the generations that follow us will be doing less and living in less space than we did, and that is wrong. Come on, where is the dream? Where is the vision? What we want to do is see some follow-through on the election promises, and that is one election promise we will not let them forget.

There was an election promise about education. The people of Ontario believe in education because we believe in our youth, in our young people. We know the value of providing a good base of knowledge so that our most important and most valuable resource, which is our young people, will at least have the opportunity to learn, to grow, to prosper and to develop to the best of its ability.

In the election campaign, the Premier said, “We are going to reduce the number of students in the primary grades from 30 to 20.” Where is that happening? Where are the new classes being built? What is being done to implement that promise? What the government is doing is throwing out promises but not following through on them. The people of Ontario said: “Education is important to us, and since you are going to come out with some good solid programs to help education, then we are going to vote for you, Mr. Peterson. We are going to vote for your people.”

The people of Ontario will be extremely disappointed because already there has been no action on it. The people of Metropolitan Toronto have just gone through one of the worst strikes Toronto has experienced, where the schoolteachers were out for several weeks. During that strike, there could have been an opportunity for the new Minister of Education or the former Minister of Education to come out and say: “There is going to be some more money in the pot next year because of this election promise, and we know that you can do some planning around that. This strike could end tomorrow because we are going to be giving extra support to education in the next year or so.” Because a contract was being negotiated for more than just a year, there would have been an opportunity for something to happen.

That was a mistake. It is a mistake on the part of this government not to have followed through on it. I like what Shakespeare said: “Grant I may never prove so fond, / To trust man on his oath or

bond." The problem is that the people of Ontario have placed that trust in this government. On housing, on education and on a host of other areas, they are finding they are extremely disappointed.

What the government really needs to have is a vision of the future. There are so many people from Pierre Elliott Trudeau's days in Ottawa who have moved into Queen's Park. Some 25 or 27 different executive assistants and policy advisers to this government come out of the Trudeau years in Ottawa. The people of Ontario do not realize that what we are getting here is a new version of Trudeaumania in the form of the Premier and his group.

I would like to share with the members Pierre Trudeau's vision of the future, which he gave in June 1968. He said: "There is nobody to tell me how the country should be run. I tell them." Maybe that is what the Premier of this province is saying by his lack of action. He is saying: "I am not listening to what the people of Ontario want. I am not following through. I will tell them."

He has not told them anything in this speech from the throne. He has not given people any sense of confidence that this government has a dream and has a vision. The expectation level is so high; yet the follow-through and the commitment to true purpose are not part and parcel of this speech.

What I would like to see is something of the balanced thinking that is part of the Progressive Conservative background. Maybe the government should have a look at what our—

Mr. Ballinger: The province did for 42 years. They did not like it.

Mr. Cousens: Well, the province did like it. May I suggest that the province understands that there are several things that are part of a Progressive Conservative view of history, a view of society and the role of government. The first and most important is that when you look at what progressive stands for, it means a progressive social policy that understands the needs of all people in this province.

Then it also has a conservative economic thesis that understands the importance of business being able to prosper, make money, hire people and build an environment for business. That is part of the conservative economic thinking. Finally, there is an underlying whole sense of what society is all about that is based on the importance of the family, that the family is the basis of a strong society.

When we came back, what I was hoping for from this speech from the throne was something

which would have really had a sense of inspiring the people of the province and inspiring even the members of our party. In fact, I was pleased when I was listening to the member for Cambridge (Mr. Farnan)—he is coming from much the same perspective as I am—saying: "Where are you coming from? What are you doing? Where is your vision?" It is lacking.

1610

Let us look at what could be part of the government's progressive social policy. How about some innovative housing plans and strategies? Inasmuch as it has failed to come up with any strategy to provide the 102,000 promised affordable units by 1989—and that is the number I will continue to look for—we have not seen any innovative housing strategies coming out of this government.

Why not look at some of the government lands? I do not mean the Rouge Valley. The Minister of Housing might end up saying: "Hey, I have an innovative plan. I am going to destroy one of the natural environmental areas which Scarborough council has said by a vote of 16 to 1 it wants to protect and preserve."

Mr. Haggerty: Why not complete John White's dream, the Townsend site. How would that be?

Mr. Cousens: The visions change. We are talking about a new age, and some of the things that have worked in the past may need to be reinvestigated and modified so that we can go to it.

That is the opportunity this government has, to come up with a way of taking some of the government-owned lands, leasing them for \$1 a year or a small amount and allowing developers and people who are going to build on those places to do so. They can let the 99-year lease stand on the property; they will have removed one of the major ingredients of the cost of building a home for people today. Then they can begin to erect more of the kinds of quality, affordable housing that people can go into. Tie the funding into that.

There are indeed problems with the thousands of people who are homeless in this province now. June Callwood, in one of the best series of articles in the *Globe and Mail*, has been describing the plight of the homeless across this country. The problems of the homeless in New Brunswick are no different from the ones in Toronto, Hamilton, Windsor or any other of our large cities. What we have to realize is that people are poor because they are spending so much on housing. They spend 65 per cent of their

total income on housing. What is left for clothes, food or some of the other necessities of life?

If it has a dream and if it does believe that housing is a right, then the government will begin to put an emphasis on that and understand that the social crisis in our society today stems from the failure of government to deal with the housing crisis. It should come up with a progressive housing plan.

I would love it if this government could come out with some unique and fresh thinking on seniors, realizing that not only the seniors are worried about their long term, but so are young people and people who are worried about their parents and about themselves in the future. Our society knows that as we look after our seniors, we are then in a position to show respect for those pioneers and people who helped make this such a great place to live.

Why not come out with some plans to bring more home care and home support into places where seniors already live? In my riding there are a number of large condominiums and apartment buildings largely inhabited by seniors. Why not bring into those buildings a service, resident within the building? There might be nursing, food preparation or other things that can be done so that the people can continue to live in their own community, their own place.

Why do we not begin to develop programs to help seniors stay at home more? We have started it. The Conservative government started it. It did not do enough. This government can do more. It can do more to build the ramps and the services so that those people can come in.

There was a recent program that came out in the last year. It was not for seniors; it had to do with people with multiple sclerosis and other problems. I talked with a person over the weekend about the Ontario home renewal program for the disabled, whereby they can have a sense of participating in their own homes. The plan has run out of money, as far as I can see. What can we do to help those disabled people be part of their own environment and not just be relegated to some inferior status?

What can we do to provide more meals and services to seniors? How can we encourage more home sharing so that seniors can be assisted in finding companions to live with them? How can we do it in a way so that they are not having to go out and solicit them, but that someone helps monitor the program and helps them set it up? Although only a small percentage of homes would be provided, the province would at least begin to meet some of the need.

What we need is new, innovative zoning for municipalities that allows people to begin to see there are ways in which there can be more co-operative housing and more units.

The Planning Act itself needs to be reviewed to permit and encourage municipalities to set aside land banks for seniors. One has to understand there is a value to land. The government should not just sell it but find some way of taking a certain percentage of the land for new development.

Take my community, which is growing at such a phenomenal rate. I will get to that later on as I talk about the problems of the south York region. Land is an irreplaceable commodity. It needs to be valued. It needs to be somehow used so that all of society will benefit from it.

Can this government find ways of encouraging people to get that land so that it is being properly used for people?

When I talk to the seniors in our community they are proud of the fact that we have such a beautiful province, so let us not do it at the expense of getting rid of more park land. Let us not do it at the expense of getting rid of the greenbelts. Let us do it in such a way that we can build and maintain our natural environment and, at the same time, create an environment for people to live in and to be a part of the whole community.

Mr. Ballinger: It is obvious that you ran for the wrong party.

Mr. Cousens: I guess that is one of the reasons I won. I happen to have the good social conscience that the member talks about.

I am worried that this government has no vision for child care. If one looks at New Directions for Child Care, a document prepared by the Ministry of Community and Social Services, it has come out with a number of ad hoc moves that place the private providers of child care in jeopardy. It has not come up with any thrust that will encourage, maintain or support privately run, privately offered child care in this province. When we know that over 50 per cent of child care in this province is already provided by the for-profit types, why is it that this government, when it is not developing programs fast enough to replace it, is not doing something to help maintain those who have been giving quality child care?

I am concerned that at a forum that I conducted in our riding last week on child care, a number of questions came out of it that are really fundamental to the future of what child care is in this province.

What is the impact going to be on the primary program in schools by now having schools with child care being provided in them? With the future of child care, are we eventually going to have a megaministry on child care in this province? We have a Minister without Portfolio responsible for senior citizens' affairs, and I am honestly sorry that the member for London North (Mr. Van Horne) is not here. He was really beginning to make an impact in that ministry. Now, what we are doing is talking words around seniors.

But let us have some real action around young people too, such as a megaministry on child care, because it affects the Ministry of Health, it affects the Ministry of Education, it affects the Ministry of Community and Social Services, it affects the Ministry of Correctional Services. So many ministries are overlapping and they are all just putting their finger in but they are not really leaving it there to feel the heat.

How long will it be before school boards will be changed and will be responsible for providing the management and delivery of child care programs? In the initial stage, the school boards are being forced to provide space for child care in new schools. This is a scarce dollar that is being taken away, which was raised from taxpayers for education and is now being applied to a different area than education. So it says: "What are dollars paid for by taxpayers in education? Are they now going to be applied in other areas when we are already not putting enough dollars in education?"

As the member for Cambridge said so eloquently, out of that whole 60-40 ratio the school boards are taxing the ratepayers and yet they are now taking that money and not applying it to education. They are going to be applying it to child care.

It is a worthy assignment, but it is not from the right source. The province has said, "Here, go and do it." I think what we need to do is see from this government not only a vision but a sense of balance of working together, not by itself but with the private sector. It should be working with everybody to deliver the quality programs that we want to have.

I am sorry and very disappointed that this government has still allowed the delay in the presentation of the report from Judge Thomson, the report commissioned by the Ministry of Community and Social Services. It is not unlike other promises. It is unfortunate that there is no immediate plan to implement some of the recommendations that are coming forward. To bring forward the series of recommendations I

am confident will be coming from Judge Thomson is something that will begin to address the needs of the people who are on welfare and the people in receipt of moneys through the Ministry of Community and Social Services. They are waiting for something to happen. We need to begin to build the bridge, so those people who are now so dependent on the province for funding can find ways of moving out from under that dependency into the workforce. We must allow them to have a cushion and some kind of interim financing so they are not as partially penalized as they are now by the plans of the ministry.

1620

Much needs to be done. An opportunity to present that vision, a refreshing, new, hopeful sign for the people who are on welfare, the people who are dependent on the government for social services, is missing in this report—in this, the speech from the throne. That is in itself a shame. It is probably part of that overall concern I have that this is a failure to deliver, a failure to deliver on the promise, the expectation the people of Ontario had of this government.

I see a social policy evolving that is punitive on places that do not exactly fit certain guidelines and rules. We continue to have the pressures of the ministries of Health and Community and Social Services not coming together in trying to solve some of the problems.

I would love to be able to spend more time, but I will not spend a lot of time, on the facility in Newmarket, owned by Metropolitan Toronto, called Greenacres Homes for the Aged. It is in the process of being shut down. It would normally handle 650 beds. It now has 400 people in the facility and no more people are being allowed to enter Greenacres. Therefore, it will continue to go down in size. What is this province going to do? We have people in York region looking for a place to stay. Greenacres looks after patients with Alzheimer's disease; it looks after nursing beds; it is a high care, high-quality centre for seniors. Meanwhile, what is happening is that the government having placed a restriction on any more people being allowed into Greenacres, we are seeing the population of the facility going down. Meanwhile we have empty rooms, empty beds, empty places—before we come up with a long-term solution for the people of York region.

I find it absolutely reprehensible that this government has not come up with a solution to deal with the whole of the seniors' problem in York region in a real, honest and good way. It

makes no sense at all to have a facility that can serve 250 more people being unused right now, being closed down gradually. It does not make any sense not to make use of those 250 beds, when the promise for more beds is not yet delivered. I appreciate the fact that the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan) came into the riding and announced 150 beds for York County Hospital and another 150 for York Central Hospital, but the government has imposed a lid on any more people going into Greenacres. Until the new facilities are built, we are seeing a dearth of spaces for those people who need them.

If this government is going to have a progressive social policy, if it is going to have a sincere, honest and true commitment to seniors, then it must be consistent in its actions and its words. Words and actions go together but they are not going together in my area, and I am concerned about it.

I hear the Ministry of Health is not even involved in the discussions to resolve the problems around Greenacres. The Ministry of Community and Social Services is continuing to try to find solutions but, because of the overlap that exists between the two ministries, unfortunately, the Minister of Health is somehow removing herself from the problem. It goes to show that we as a province have still not worked out how we are going to handle seniors. As long as that happens, it is again a broken promise. People have great hopes and expectations but they are not being fulfilled by the actions of the government.

I am worried as well about our young people. I have two young children of my own who are, fortunately, doing well, in spite of having me as their father and the home life that I as a politician give them. I think the mother does so much in making it a good home, and I give her the credit for any successes I have in our home, but I worry about those who do go astray.

The other day, when the Minister of Correctional Services (Mr. Ramsay) made an announcement of the number of dollars, \$400,000 or so, to be spent on an educational program for workers around young people, it failed to articulate a vision of the future for these young people. It seemed like more of the same, more of just, "We're going to teach the people to do the same job."

Why not lift it up? Let us find a way of making the best investment possible so that those young people who have gotten into trouble with the law are going to find a way out to be creative, constructive, involved people in our society.

That is part of the failed vision, part of the failure of this government to come out with a real solution.

I guess I like the old Yiddish proverb that says, "If you want your dreams to come true, don't sleep." I am wondering who is asleep. The people of Ontario have a vision and this government has failed in meeting even a minimal standard of what that vision could be.

When I talk about the social programs, I also must say that as a Conservative I look for conservative economic planning.

Mr. Wildman: Oh no.

Mr. Cousens: Oh indeed.

If we were to begin to see some honest assessment of how the government is going to deal with the budget, how it is going to deal with the deficit, how this government can clean up this outrageous spending that is going on in just making things bigger and bigger—it does not necessarily become better. Therefore, we need a government that is taking leadership in the economy. After the stock market crash on Black Monday, what did we see from this government? No sense of confidence—

Interjection.

Mr. Cousens: Change the subject? The government has a responsibility to give a sense of confidence to the business world and is not doing so, either by the level of the size of the government it is trying to run or by the deficit it is growing and building.

I would like to see a vision of this government that says something about transportation services which would begin to help the machinery of business to be more successful. Look at long-term planning. Where is there any long-term planning? Where are there some large projects that can tell people in Ontario, "We know where we're going with our transportation"?

Last week the Honourable Charlie MacNaughton passed away. He was Minister of Highways for this province back in the 1960s. It was his vision that helped bring about Highway 401 and he had great projects under way to help make it happen. We have benefited so much from his vision.

Where is the vision for transportation now for this province? What is going to happen to the subway? When can the Toronto Transit Commission go straight up Yonge Street to Highway 7? When can there be a fast-transit route around Metropolitan Toronto in the hydro corridor? When can there be some kind of high-speed commuter services that help people get around? When can we see Highway 407 accelerated,

rather than just a mere \$25 million in 1987? It is a \$650-million project and where is it going? It just has a few peanuts thrown against the wall on it. Where will something be done about the Sheppard Avenue subway?

Begin to work with the people who are concerned about getting around. Toronto is the heart of so much of what Ontario is all about, and we have to keep it strong.

Mr. Wildman: Well now, don't go too far.

Mr. Cousens: I am prepared to see what we can do to help Algoma and what we can do to help Ballantrae. There are so many places that need to be helped.

It starts with a vision. What is the vision of this province when it comes to transportation? Where is the relief for the people who are on the parkway every day? Where is the relief for the people who—woe betide, they are buying their seats in the domed stadium. I am amazed at the amount of dollars people have to put up to buy those seats. I think someone could make as much money selling them a parking place, because there is not going to be any parking thought about so far in downtown Toronto around the dome and Toronto is soon going to be so glutted with cars there will not be a place to park your car.

1630

If I had a choice on the location for the domed stadium, the first choice would be the Langstaff jail farm at Highway 7 and Yonge Street in Richmond Hill in the former riding of York Centre, presently in the riding of York Centre and presently held this week by the member for York Centre (Mr. Sorbara). The other spot that was good was near Highway 401 and Wilson Heights in Downsview. At least you had transportation corridors that could get people in and out.

There is no vision on transportation in this great metropolitan area. When I talk to people in other cities and other municipalities, they too complain about the failure to provide long-term planning, long-term solutions. It is ad hockery at its worst, because the people who are suffering are the people of Ontario. I am sure it is cutting into our tourist dollars because when people come into our cities now, such as Toronto or Ottawa, it is an entanglement. They can hardly get around. They do not like it. It is going to have a negative impact not only on business but also on tourist dollars. It is threatening a psychological breakdown for the people who have to go to work in Toronto from the outlying areas. It just takes so long to get to work. Where is that vision of transportation? I am saying it has to come.

Where is their vision when it comes to business planning? We in this province of Ontario have had 19 new taxes, or close to that, in the last two years: further taxing of business, taxing business people who are trying to generate wealth. Is there something wrong with that? There is if they are going to take every cent they make and try to make it part of a government bureaucracy. As a government, we need to be investing in the machinery of business so that they will survive into the future.

When we talk about socioeconomic planning and economic policy, what we really need to look at as well is an honest statement on free trade. It is not coming forth. Here is an opportunity for this province to be truly Canadian, to be part of this country, but now we are taking a position almost in contradiction to that of the rest of Canada.

Mr. Ballinger: Possibly it can't be that bad.

Mr. Cousens: I wish the member would go and talk to the member for Etobicoke-Humber (Mr. Henderson). There are many others within the Liberal Party who are beginning to ask questions: "Are you not going too far in trying to fight the free trade initiatives that are put forward by the federal government?"

Mr. Faubert: All by himself.

Mr. Cousens: Not by himself. I think there are more silent people who may be coming forward, who are getting the confidence and the courage to stand up for something rather than just to be little rubber stamps or big rubber stamps.

I would also like to point out that the Premier's technology fund had an opportunity to say, "We are going to do something about the high-tech industry." What has it done? Where has it gone? What is it trying to do? What is its vision? A lot of questions need to be answered. It is high time this government had some economic policy, some economic plan, some sense of commitment to the economy of the province and the economy of Canada.

I believe I am a Canadian first and an Ontario citizen second. For a responsible government, what I am seeing is the Premier, and especially the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Mr. Kwinter) with some of the remarks he has had to apologize for, as ones who are saying: "The rest of Canada is not all that important. It is Ontario that counts." I happen to be a Canadian first. I am a Canadian and proud of it, but I would be more proud if I saw the province saying: "We have a responsibility to the rest of this country. We have a responsibility to make things work, not just undermine them, not just attack them and fail in not coming forward with some responsible

alternative plans." It is one thing just to come along and criticize; it is another thing to come forward with suggestions. I have done that today in my speech in the throne speech debate.

I would also like to point out that if there is anything that is going to keep our country strong, it is going to be the family. I would like to give a lot of credit to the Family Coalition Party and its presentation of family values during the election campaign and the reinforcement of that basic unit within society. We have a responsibility to do everything we can to build, maintain, strengthen and support our family units.

As I touch upon these flaws in the vision of this government, I suppose it becomes a matter then to touch upon some of the areas that are part of my critic responsibility and to be very specific in my concerns.

I have a quote that can begin some of my comments on housing. Joyce Kilmer said: "I suppose I passed it 100 times, but I always stop for a minute and look at the house, the tragic house, the house with nobody in it."

That is not something she could say in Metropolitan Toronto or in the cities of today, because the houses are filled to overflowing. There is no housing. The tragedy is in looking at the people who do not have a place to live and do not have a place to go.

Look at the 10,000 to 15,000 homeless people in this province, in city streets, in cities from Toronto right through to both sides of the border. We are seeing many, many people who have no place to live. We are seeing a flawed government policy on affordable housing that has nothing to do with providing affordable rental accommodation. People who have a two-bedroom apartment in Toronto spend up to \$900 a month just for a two-bedroom apartment. How many people can afford that?

Look at the waiting list for nonprofit housing, averaging around 17,000 in Toronto. What is the average cost of buying a home in Toronto? We all know that it is above and beyond the means of most people. Look at the collapse of this government in the new home ownership program I talked about earlier. Look at the inability of this government to forecast housing starts on a yearly basis.

There is no way that the past record shows that there is a commitment to the 102,000 that are promised by 1989. In fact, the most the government has ever come up with is about 10,000 or 15,000 a year. The people of Ontario are beginning to challenge the credibility of this government, which is failing in myriad ways to

provide programs to address the needs of those without houses.

When I look at the environment problems in Metropolitan Toronto, I continue to be worried about what is going to happen in this city when there is no co-ordinated attempt to deal with the industrial recycling, the recycling of garbage itself and the handling of garbage. We all know that recycling is only one of three major components of waste management, the other two being landfill and incineration.

What is happening now is that there is no concerted effort by this government to deal with this whole problem of the environment. I think there is going to be a serious threat to the future of Metropolitan Toronto in the years ahead unless we come up with a solution on how we are going to handle our garbage. I have been informed by a number of people in Metropolitan Toronto that this is going to be a major issue in the years to come. What is the government doing about it? What is the plan? What is the action plan?

There is no doubt that we need landfill sites. There is no doubt that maybe 15 per cent of the garbage can be handled by recycling. But let us look at some new ways and some new methods, such as incineration. A number of proposals have been presented to the Ministry of the Environment, about which nothing has been done and nothing is being considered. Why not come up with some plans? We in this province deserve more than we are getting.

What about doing something in regard to education? What we need to do is face up to the fact that this province has made a clear statement about doing something in regard to education, but it has failed to do anything about the illiteracy that is a major concern to all our children and all our schools. Where is that pledge to help the high school dropouts?

I had a young person in my riding office this morning who is 21 years of age. What about the program to try to give him a job—he has just gone from job to job to job. There truly is not a system or a solution to help that young person. We need to help young people and to realize that there is a long-term commitment. Some who may not be able to learn as quickly as others need to be helped. Education should be there to give them a basis for the future.

The young boy I saw this morning does not have that foundation; and so what can we do to help him? We should be looking not only at the present for those young people in our school system but also to the future and to the past,

looking at all those who have been part and parcel of it.

I also come back and challenge this government to do something about the commitment it made before it took over to do something about the level of funding for schools and to increase the government's share to 60 per cent, to do something about seniors having to pay so much for school costs when, in fact, they have no one to go to the school.

Is it not time to review the taxation system in this province and help protect the people who have given so much already? Are they going to continue to be taxed? Why do we continue to do that to them? It is not fair. I believe that we, as politicians in this province, owe a great deal to our seniors and that there should be a considerable amount done to make sure that they are appreciated and they are not being taxed unfairly.

1640

I could speak on many issues, but there are flaws. There are flaws to this government's plan on housing, environment, education and seniors. It is, as I see it, a series of broken trusts. It is a situation in which the people of Ontario had great expectations for great things from this government, and what they are getting is falling far short of those expectations.

I would like, finally, to take a moment to read a resolution that comes from the towns of Markham, Richmond Hill and Vaughan, which comes out of the regional municipality of York. In what I have dealt with so far, I have tried to point out that there is no vision in this province. I think there are a number of flaws in the programs that are being brought through, but I would also like to point out that a number of municipalities in my area are increasingly concerned about the failure of this government to deal fairly and equitably with the towns of Markham, Richmond Hill and Vaughan.

My riding is that of Markham; the Minister of Labour, the member for York Centre, serves Richmond Hill and Vaughan. I have good reason to believe the minister would not want to have this read in the Legislature. None the less, what has happened is that the towns have reached a point where they have no other recourse except to escalate their concern, raise it to the province and hope there will be some action:

"Whereas the towns of Markham, Richmond Hill and Vaughan in the regional municipality of York are recognized individually and collectively to be the fastest-growing urban municipalities in the province of Ontario; and

"Whereas the towns of Markham, Richmond Hill and Vaughan, combined, represent some 65 per cent of the total population of the regional municipality of York and bear 74 per cent of the total 1987 general regional levy for expenditures; and

"Whereas the regional municipality of York also imposes special development levies on new growth in its local municipalities to permanently finance necessary regional capital works; and

"Whereas, notwithstanding the above, the regional municipality of York is unable to positively respond in the delivery of those necessary regional services required by the three municipalities that constitute south York region,

"Therefore, the town of Markham, the town of Richmond Hill and the town of Vaughan hereby formally petition the newly elected government of Ontario to amend the Regional Municipality of York Act or to provide whatever other legislative assistance is required to recognize the need for equity in the planning and distribution of regional urban services to high-growth areas by either:

"(a) allowing for a change in the basis of apportionment of the regional levies on the local municipalities in order that necessary funds may be legally redirected from various sources normally allocated or submitted to the region of York towards the satisfaction of the urban service needs of its contributing local municipalities; or

"(b) by providing to the local municipalities of York region, that are experiencing inordinate urban growth, access to extraordinary provincial funding to immediately meet the local and regional servicing requirements generated by the rapid urbanization of the Metropolitan Toronto fringe area.

"In the event that neither of the above actions are undertaken by the province of Ontario, the south York region towns of Markham, Richmond Hill and Vaughan respectfully petition the government of Ontario to undertake a formal review and restructuring of the political, administrative and financial framework of the regional municipality of York to ensure that there is fair and equitable distribution of local government services to all municipalities within the region;

"And further, that the Honourable John Eakins, Minister of Municipal Affairs, be requested to immediately convene a meeting with the three petitioning municipalities of Markham, Richmond Hill and Vaughan in order to provide a forum for the purpose of freely expressing directly to the minister the servicing and financial concerns of the high-growth municipalities of York region."

We have to realize that that is not just words. These words are based on just the whole financial crisis developing in south York region. We are talking about a municipality that is beginning to lose out, compared to the rest of the province. The regional municipality of York being one of the fastest-growing areas, I just want to bring out a point. The total provincial grants to municipalities in 1981-1985 had an increase of 13 per cent, while general and provincial grants to York region declined by three per cent. In effect, over this period York region received 16 per cent less in real terms than the rest of the province's municipalities. That is the point.

Mr. Ballinger: What about assessment growth?

Mr. Cousens: The problem we are getting is that the assessment growth—I am glad the member asked about that; I am very pleased that the member for Durham-York (Mr. Ballinger) is interested in that. I can go on for about half an hour covering the assessment growth because he asked for it.

Mr. Wildman: Yes, go ahead.

Mr. Cousens: I think I will. I am so pleased that the member is interested in this, because he has part of York region in his riding and I am honoured to be able to help him out. When he goes back and studies this this evening, he will begin to appreciate that—

Mr. Ballinger: That is the last thing I am going to look at this evening.

Mr. Cousens: One just never knows. His eyes are hardly open now. He can have a nap and come back and I will still be here.

What the honourable member is asking for is the total assessment in 1986 in York region. The assessment in the southern municipalities was 74 per cent of the total region. Yet what are we getting in that assessment? If one starts looking at—

Mr. Ballinger: What percentage is your levy?

Mr. Cousens: He wants to know the regional levy. OK. The total regional levy for 1987 is \$35,581,949. The northern municipalities generate 26 per cent of that, or \$9,312,508, but Markham, Richmond Hill and Vaughan generate 74 per cent, or \$26,269,441. So it is disproportionate, because we are talking about the population in the south being 65 per cent of the total population and we are not getting back anything close to that.

I want to come back to that. I want to show the member that York region is not sharing the money equally within the region.

Mr. Callahan: Why do you not run for municipal politics?

Mr. Cousens: In this business, one keeps running.

Mr. Callahan: You need a new pair of running shoes.

Mr. Cousens: I used them up until September 10 and I still have them on.

In York region, with the number of housing starts and the number of investments that are coming in, the southern part of the region is not getting its fair share. The province is giving less money to the region of York, a fast-growing area, than it is to other areas, as I gave in my first statistic. What we have to face up to is that we need the services to build a strong community. We need Highway 407 and we need it quickly. We need Highway 404 and we need it finished. It is going to happen, but it is delayed a year because the money that was going to go on to Highway 404 was put on to Highway 407. That upset Mr. Twinney, the mayor of Newmarket, when he knew that was happening.

Interjection.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Cousens: We, as concerned representatives, have to make sure there is equity for all the people of Ontario. I tabled a motion that has been passed unanimously by three municipalities which are increasingly concerned that the province is not treating the high-growth areas in the southern part of the region in a fair and equitable way. We need help, and that help can come in the form of money, a commitment to money to finish Highway 407, a commitment to finish 16th Avenue, a commitment to put some of the money back into this area.

Mr. Callahan: Sixteenth Avenue? Where is that?

Mr. Cousens: I would be glad to go into that. The member for Brampton South (Mr. Callahan)—

Interjection.

Mr. Cousens: The fact of the matter is, we are talking about—

Interjection.

Mr. Cousens: I am just getting warmed up, and maybe if I keep going, the members opposite will all go to the Premier and to the ministers responsible and tell them: "We do not want to have D. Cousens from Markham do this again. We will follow through on his vision. We will come up with a plan and a strategy to help the people of York region."

Mr. Ballinger: Try and get your facts straight.

Mr. Cousens: I challenge that man, Mr. Speaker. If there are any facts I have given today that are not true and honest, then the honourable member has not understood the intent or the value of the data that I am working from.

Mr. Callahan: Does Alan Pope know you are doing this? Does he know you are running for leader?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Morin): Order. Please address your remarks to the chair.

1650

Mr. Cousens: I think that out of respect for all members of the House, and with the need for others to participate in this important debate on the speech from the throne, I would like to make just a few final points.

The government had a chance to create a statement in the speech from the throne that could give people in the province a sense of hope and expectation that the province was going to do something to follow through on the high expectations that people had prior to September 10.

I will not be supporting the motion that endorses this statement. I will be voting against this speech because I believe it fails in presenting a vision and a dream for the people of Ontario. I feel it has failed because it does not have a clear idea where it is going to help people in housing, help people in social needs, help every person in this province. It has failed because it does not have an economic view of the province. It sort of has the same view that we will spend and we will solve problems by spending money.

This province has a high level of expectation, and what the government is trying to do is maybe put a wet blanket over those expectations by doing nothing here. I would be very happy to support positive, good, constructive, creative programs that are going to continue to make this the best province and the best place to live.

There are things that are happening that are positive. In fact, I have been pleased to see the kind of money that came from the Ministry of Community and Social Services to help the home support programs in York region. I have seen a sense of movement towards seniors and there has been a consensus from all members in this House towards doing more. My feeling is it is not enough; it is not enough to really build the society and to create that environment so that all of our citizens can share in the prosperity that is ours.

I believe that as Canadians and Ontarians we have a responsibility to the rest of Canada. I am so disappointed that the Premier and his travel-

ling circus are going around the province and trying to enlist support against a program called freer trade that can, over the long term, be very instrumental in continuing growth and strengthening this province.

I believe there is much to be done and we have that opportunity. It would be a shame not to follow through. It would be a shame for this government to continue as it has, with this very boring, very droning, very incomplete statement of its plans. It has a chance. There is still a chance. There are still a few years left in its mandate. Let us hope that, before it is finished, it will come off with something that we can all work together on to continue the job of making this the greatest place to live.

Mr. Callahan: I have listened very attentively to the member's comments. I want to address particularly the issue of the indictment he makes of our government for not recognizing high-growth areas, because the former government certainly did not. When I look at the amount of money that is required by the separate and public school boards in my riding, \$100 million, it certainly tells the tale that the former Conservative government—of which the member for Markham not only was a member but, I believe, was a minister for a brief period of time—did not address the question of high-growth areas.

Within the short period of time that this government was in session in the earlier session, it injected \$42 million in capital funds into my riding. That to me is putting your money where your mouth is. In addition to the inadequacies of the former government, of which the honourable member was a part, it failed to look after courthouses and it failed to look after roads, so much so that this government had to address the issue of high-growth areas and had to address the issue of looking after the inadequacies of the former government.

I find it somewhat laughable that the member in his address to the throne speech is prepared to say this government did not treat these high-growth areas with a sensitive approach. It is probably the first time in the modern history of man that this has taken place. Perhaps had the people been wise enough to have decided that this was not taking place in high-growth areas, they might have been able to address the issue before 42 years had gone by in allowing these things to take place. I suggest to my honourable friend that he should reflect on the inadequacies of the past.

Mr. Wildman: Just as an aside, I would like to point out to the members opposite that

members of the government are members of the Treasury bench. The other members of the Liberal Party are supporters of the government, not members of the government.

I would like to comment on the member's presentation, which I followed carefully. First, I would like to compliment him on its scope. He seemed to attempt to cover the waterfront and in doing so covered everything in great depth. In fact, I would say that it was almost Churchillian in scope.

I am particularly concerned, however, about his comments on free trade. His analysis was quite lengthy, I will admit, and it looked at all the various impacts of free trade, but I am most concerned about his suggestion that in order to be "truly Canadian"—I think that is a quote—one must support the free trade Mulroney-Reagan sellout of this country. It is most unfortunate that someone would suggest that anyone who raises concerns about the possible impact of this free trade agreement with the United States would not be, in his words, putting Canada first and not showing pride in his own country.

I object vehemently to the suggestion that those who are opposed to free trade and opposed to this deal somehow are lacking in courage and do not support their own country. It is my view that this deal was negotiated out of fear and that it is the very people who support this deal who do not have pride in their country and confidence in our ability to compete on the world market. It is most unfortunate that we would have the suggestion that to be against this deal is somehow not to be standing up for one's country.

It would have been much better if the member for Markham had been asking this government why it is not living up to the commitments it made during the election campaign rather than criticizing those who have genuine concerns about the Mulroney-Reagan deal.

Mr. Beer: I would like to note a couple of points with respect to the honourable member's comments on York region.

First, I would state very clearly that no funds were altered or redirected from the Highway 407 project to Highway 404. That is a project with which I was intimately involved over the summer months, and I can say categorically that the funds earmarked for 404 were indeed the funds that were spent on that highway.

There have been problems in getting that highway finished as quickly as we would like. Those are problems that have gone on over a period of years, in effect, not only during our own government but also during the predecessor

government. But it simply is not correct to state that any funds were redirected from 404 to 407.

The second point I would like to make is that I do not believe the motion which the honourable member read out from Vaughan, Richmond Hill and Markham has been particularly helpful within the region. Certainly, the other municipalities, the so-called northern municipalities, were concerned in that it was a motion which they had not seen before it was made.

Clearly, there are a number of problems in York region. The whole area is coping with growth, and we are going to have to cope together with that problem. With respect, I believe the member has misinterpreted the population and assessment statistics and I do not believe the situation is quite the way that he sets it out.

Certainly, I will look into that in more detail, but I do believe that if York region is to resolve its problems, the municipalities must do so together. I hope that in future Vaughan, Richmond Hill and Markham will consult closely with the northern municipalities so that we can make a united position to the provincial government.

Mr. Adams: The member for Markham is the official Housing critic for his party and, as such, he has the enormous research resources of his caucus at his disposal. With regard to housing, I can only speak for my own riding and I would say that this government's programs are very healthy there. To mention one, the convert-to-rent program in Peterborough, I have had requests about it, from the scale of large apartment buildings to individual people creating apartments in their houses.

1700

He mentions two interest groups: seniors and students. I recognize their particular housing needs, but in addressing those needs, I think we do, as he knows, address the needs of all people who require affordable housing.

In Peterborough, it is difficult to imagine senior citizen housing being constructed more quickly. In the student area, we are taking advantage, I hope, of this government's initiative to develop more student housing. I personally, and I hope he will join me, am pressing for the southern Ontario colleges to be allowed to build student residences.

He mentioned vision a great deal and challenges to this government's credibility and so on. I would put out a personal challenge to him. It has been estimated that there are tens, if not hundreds, of thousands of living spaces in this province available if people would convert their

houses. Last week I had my house converted to an owner-occupied duplex. I challenge him to do the same.

Mr. Cousens: I thank the members for their comments. I appreciate those of the member for Brampton South. There has been money, but the ratio of the dollars from the province to the region of York in the last two years has not changed the situation. The region of York continues to do worse than other areas of the province. Compared on a per capita basis, the region of York does not do as well as other municipalities. That is because there is no recognition for the high growth that is going on in that community.

I give an apology to the member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman). The last thing I would want to do is to draw any conclusions about his intention for support or nonsupport of anything. My particular concern had to do with the Premier and to statements that had been made by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, which would tell me that their emphasis has been more of an anti-Canadian one. I know the feelings that are coming from Premiers in other provinces. There is one that questions their intentions, and it is to that I was raising the question. To have drawn that on anyone who disagrees with the course of action that this government is taking and to say it is true of the opposition party is not my intention.

I believe the people in York region have some problem with some of the comments made by the member for York North (Mr. Beer). I certainly have the statistical background that can back up everything I said and any numbers that I gave. There is absolutely no problem on that score. Also, the general feeling was, and because he could not get an answer from anyone, that the money from Highway 407 was such a piddling amount it was really the money that was going to be put on Highway 404, if it had been finished on time.

I like the intention of the member for Peterborough (Mr. Adams) and I like his spirit, but may I tell members that the problems that we have in urban municipalities across Ontario on housing are far greater and far more intense than maybe he would experience in his own area. I do not know the problems of housing in his area, but may I assure him, if the Minister of Housing (Ms. Hošek) will not do anything about it, I will be glad to raise it with her in question period.

Miss Roberts: This is the first opportunity that I have had to address this House since September 10, 1987. This will be my maiden speech.

I understand that it is a tradition in this House to speak of one's home riding and describe some

of the concerns that riding has. I will be brief today as I want other members to have time to speak. Also, I will be spending a number of years in this House, I hope, explaining to this House and to the people of Ontario the concerns of Elgin.

Let me first formally congratulate you, sir, on your election as Deputy Speaker of the House. I look forward to working with you and all other members of the House.

Mr. Callahan: You attract a crowd.

Miss Roberts: It is not the first crowd I have attracted.

I would also like to thank the members of this House for their confidence in electing me to be the first woman to hold the position of Deputy Chair of the committees of the whole House. I would also like to thank the members for their kind thoughts and congratulations from time to time. I am sure that will change as the months go by.

I am extremely proud of this role, as I will be continuing what appears to be somewhat of a tradition for the sitting member for Elgin to hold a distinct role in the Legislature. I am sure all members would like to join me in expressing my gratitude to my predecessor, Mr. Ron McNeil, for his almost 30 years of service to this House and, in particular, to the residents of Elgin. For all of my adult life, Mr. McNeil has most ably served the constituents of Elgin with dedication and distinction.

His predecessor was Fletcher Thomas, also known as Tommy Thomas, who during his 12 years in the Legislature at one time held the portfolio of Minister of Agriculture. The most accomplished and celebrated member from the riding of Elgin was the Honourable Mitchell Hepburn, 11th premier of this great province and the last Liberal Premier before September 10, 1987, to have a majority government.

Redistribution brought into the riding of Elgin two western townships of Dunwich and Aldborough. The member for Essex-Kent (Mr. McGuigan) and his predecessors have most ably represented that area in the past. I am proud to have the opportunity to carry on that tradition as well. The riding of Elgin now is contiguous with Elgin's county boundary.

As the members can see, the roles that previous members from Elgin have been in leave me, the first woman elected from Elgin, a large challenge to fulfil.

I would also like at this time to thank the people of Elgin for supporting me during the campaign. I promise to bring to this position all

my dedication and energy. I look forward to serving all the residents of Elgin over the next years.

As we discuss and debate the throne speech, the word "challenge" is, in my view, a good term to describe the agenda of this government. The items highlighted in the speech of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor show the determination of the government to meet the challenges it set for itself during the recent election campaign.

First, in the field of education, Ontario's and indeed Canada's richest and most valuable resource, mind power, will be greatly enhanced. The students of Elgin's 31 elementary schools, some 10,000 strong, will benefit from the reduction in class sizes at the primary level. I also believe there will be a substantial benefit for all students from the enhancement and increased use of modern technology, as well as the fundamental and most crucial requirement for learning, more textbooks.

I should also like to point out that although there is an important impetus aimed at the elementary level, this government has not diminished its commitment to the educational needs at the secondary levels as well—in particular, the initiative to expand and modernize Ontario's apprenticeship system. This will help Elgin's six secondary-level schools, which serve some 5,000 students. In Elgin, we have had for a number of years a good co-operative program, and we look forward to the new initiatives on the apprenticeship program.

The government's continued emphasis on existing agricultural programs is also of great interest to me and the riding of Elgin as a whole. Agriculture is a major field of activity and endeavour in my riding. Various farms are functioning in Elgin, such as tobacco, dairy and hog operations, but predominantly we have cash crops. The problems of the tobacco farmers that have been put before this House on many occasions are well documented. This government is committed to developing innovative approaches to assist them and all other farmers in Ontario. All the farmers in Elgin county are interested in this government's agenda. The increase over the last two years in the government's spending in agriculture is welcomed in my community.

The speech we are debating today also provides new incentives to enable women farmers to have more latitude, with the possibility of using local schools for day care activity. There are already four rural day care centres set

up. I hope we will be able to expand one into my community as well.

Agriculture in itself is not the only area of concern to the residents of Elgin. My riding has a very high percentage of elderly and retired citizens. Currently, we have an excellent hospital in Elgin, the St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital. The community has just raised, from the community itself, \$4 million to add a wing to that hospital.

1710

But hospitals, as we all know, are not the only mainstay of an effective health care system. The establishment of the Premier's council on health strategy coupled with the emphasis on development of innovative health care proposals by various groups, especially those that are community-based, can only improve our current methods of providing a health-conscious community with the requirements it needs to stay healthy. This, along with providing community supports enabling seniors to live at home, recognizes the way in which our citizens want to live.

I come from a county that is approximately 70 miles long and 20 miles wide. As members may be aware, it is often said that Elgin county stops Middlesex and London from slipping into Lake Erie. Many of those people in Elgin county wish to stay in their small rural villages or in their homes in the country, and the supports and the health strategy being set before this House at this time will help them stay there. In the area of health care, this government gives an excellent indication of how we see not only our role but also the role of all people in Ontario to actively participate in improving one of the best health care systems in North America.

Yet another important area covered by the throne speech on which I will touch lightly is our environment. As a farmer's daughter and as someone who has been involved in farming for a considerable period of time, I know the farmers in my community are looking forward to the initiatives to curb the rise in the use of pesticides.

Not only is it important to maintain our natural environment but also our historical and cultural heritage is just as significant. It is refreshing that this government sees responsible development of our waterfront areas to meet various needs as an integral part of our economic and social development. My riding borders on Lake Erie to the south and contains a number of small beaches and ports. There are Port Stanley, Port Bruce and Port Burwell. These ports are growing and prospering. As residents of a growing and

prospering riding, residents in Elgin are excited about future developments along the waterfront to enhance our tourism industry. The riding of Elgin also has a great many historical structures, including the Elgin county courthouse and the Aylmer town hall. It is my hope we can and will preserve these important structures.

Finally, the area of concern on most people's minds today in Elgin, in Ontario and indeed in Canada is that of the recently signed deal of so-called free trade with our neighbour to the south. The direction outlined in the throne speech of how this issue will be handled, if we ever get the final text, is a reassuring one. Along with the cabinet subcommittee touring the province, the referral of the discussion of the final agreement to the standing committee on finance and economic affairs will ensure input and close scrutiny from all sectors of Ontario.

I should point out that along with those areas already mentioned such as agriculture, my riding also includes the Ford Talbotville plant and many other small- to medium-sized manufacturing plants and businesses that all have a great deal riding on the outcome of the current negotiations and how this government responds.

I know from all early indications that this government will enhance Ontario's position in providing leadership, along with other areas, for a better Ontario and Canada. The throne speech, as I indicated earlier, provides a commitment to the citizens of Elgin and Ontario for positive and progressive means to accept those challenges we all must face and to change those challenges into achievements.

I am pleased to support the motion with respect to the speech from the throne.

Mr. Callahan: I would like to congratulate the new member on taking her seat. She follows a tradition, as she indicated, of a gentleman who was really a young newlywed and a very good gentleman of long service in this House and, I think, a man who, over the short period of time I knew him, always delivered his representations in a nonpartisan fashion. I think that says a great deal about the man.

The introduction of the member as the first lady in the tradition of this House in the capacity to which she has been appointed, augurs well for the tradition that has always made me proud to be a Liberal. We tend to recognize that the people in this world, in this province and in this country are to be judged on the basis of their merit as opposed to the question of whether they happen to be a lady, a man or of a particular ethnic background. That has made me very proud to be a Liberal. I

think it is a hallmark that will identify the history of this great change, far greater than in any other way, when someone records this entire epic event in the annals of history.

I congratulate the member and welcome her to the House, on behalf of myself and, I hope, on behalf of all the other members in her capacity and in her new role.

Mr. Wildman: I rise to congratulate the member on her maiden speech and to echo the comments made about her predecessor, who was liked by all members on all sides of the House, who worked very hard on behalf of his constituents for many years and who was the dean of the Legislature when he retired as a young newlywed.

I hope, though, that the current member will emulate Ronnie McNeil's brevity in presentation and his willingness to forgo superfluous comments similar to the ones we have just heard from the member for Brampton.

Mr. McGuigan: As the member who formerly represented west Elgin, I take this opportunity to welcome the new member and congratulate her on her maiden speech; at the same time to voice my concerns and my appreciation of the good relations I had with the member who formerly represented east Elgin, Mr. McNeil. On many occasions we co-operated to the benefit of the people of all the ridings and the county of Elgin.

I would like to say to the new member for Elgin that she will find the east a very receptive group of people, a very wonderful group of people to work with. I wish her the very best of relations with them in the future.

Mr. Pollock: I would just like to join in paying tribute to the former member for Elgin. I was recently talking to Ronnie McNeil and he told me he is running a feedlot now, with well over 200 head. So he is producing a lot of that stuff that was originally produced in this House. He was certainly a fine gentleman and made a real contribution to this assembly.

Miss Roberts: I am very pleased and proud to be the person to follow Mr. McNeil. I can assure the member for Algoma that I will follow his practice and be as brief as I possibly can and always to the point. I hope he himself can emulate that as well.

Mr. McNeil served the residents of Elgin county very well and I plan to follow his good example. I am pleased to hear so many people rise in the House today to pay him tribute.

Mr. Philip: I would like to compliment the previous speaker on her maiden speech in the House and also to congratulate her on being appointed as the first female occupant of the chair in this House. I would also compliment you on your appointment, Mr. Speaker.

Some comment was made about Ronnie McNeil. I served with Ronnie on the standing committee on the Ombudsman, and he was the chairman of that committee for some time. One of the great attributes of Ronnie McNeil was his ability, in the chair and out of the chair, to use a sense of humour. When tempers got a little hot, he was always able to use that sense of humour to make the members realize that perhaps they were all taking themselves too seriously. I know I will be missing Ronnie and I am sure all of us will.

It is a pleasure to rise in this House and participate in this debate, the first throne speech after my re-election to my fifth term as the member for Etobicoke-Rexdale. I want to thank the hundreds of campaign workers who pounded the pavement. I want to thank my wife Suzanne, who acted as a canvass organizer, thanks to the fortunate circumstance that the election was called during the summer when she was not occupied as a teacher at Humber College.

I want to thank our two excellent councillors for ward 5, David Robertson and Karen Herrell, who managed to run, I think, a very effective campaign. I also want to thank my two opponents, because I think that, by and large, compared to some other campaigns, they ran basically a decent, honest and fairly open campaign.

Lastly, I think some mention should be made of the returning officer. There has been a lot of noise about returning officers in the city of Etobicoke. At my end of Etobicoke, we had absolutely no problems. I know Frankie Nielson is a loyal Conservative. She did an admirable job in a very nonpartisan way, and considering the fact that she was faced with some difficulties of having a summer election when people were hard to reach, she did a very professional job. I have written to her and expressed my hope that she will continue to serve in that capacity for whatever number of elections I may be involved in in the future.

The speech from the throne receives high marks for rhetoric and very low marks for substance. At a time when we are faced with the serious challenge of the Mulroney free trade agreement, the speech from the throne states it wants to encourage export industries but it has no plan by which those industries can be encouraged

or indeed about how it can be done. Instead, the government states that it plans to appoint an industrial restructuring commissioner who will try to find ways to prevent the closing of industries.

What we have, in fact, is a statement that somehow the failure is already recognized and somehow we are going to have to cope with it. One has to ask, where was the David Peterson who said that if it came to dealing with the problem of the auto parts industry there would be no deal? Where is the David Peterson who said that he had the authority to scuttle the deal and he could do it in a constitutional way?

One has to ask the Premier, "Why is it that you have such a strong force going into an election and through an election and suddenly you have this kind of wimpish, let's-have-another-study approach after the election?" Either the Premier had the ability he claimed he had or he was misleading the public.

If we look at the throne speech, there are really very few surprises. There is surprisingly little in the speech to indicate how the government intends to fight the Mulroney free trade deal. Instead, we are faced again with more studies and a committee to discuss a broader strategy but no concrete action that the government intends to take.

We see the same rhetoric as in the past, despite years of bland assurances of the government's commitment to better skills training, improved literacy, apprenticeship programs, initiatives to seniors who wish to retain their independence and fairer treatment of the disabled. All of these come out of previous speeches from the throne, but there is no specific action on how the government intends to deal with them.

Despite ever-increasing evidence of a crisis in the protection, maintenance and construction of decent affordable housing, again we have no concrete programs of actions. There is no mention of pension reform, no mention of reform to the Workers' Compensation Board and the problems of injured workers. Instead, what we have is the same old rhetoric that we have heard, not only in Liberal throne speeches but also in previous throne speeches before them.

The Treasurer and the Premier should apply for Ontario student assistance program grants because they undertake more studies than any graduate student does.

As a member of the standing committee on public accounts and as our party's critic on government spending I am very interested in the comment in the throne speech about the need to

tighten the leash on Ontario Hydro. But neither the Premier nor the Minister of Energy (Mr. Wong) will say when changes will occur or what they mean.

In regard to the question of Hydro, which the Liberals in this House used to call "that runaway monster" and which has been so critically dealt with by the Liberals in opposition, suddenly in government there is again simply rhetoric with no substance. The crown corporation is \$24 billion in debt and no action is planned to deal with that debt. The new Minister of Energy would not even state whether he was willing to have Hydro rates set by an outside body which one would take to be a reasonable thing to do.

My riding is very close to Pearson International Airport. Before and during the election campaign I met with limousine and taxi drivers. They are hurting as a result of the private-enterprise auto insurance in this province. I spoke to one driver, a man who is 55 years old and who has been driving a limousine for years and years. That is his business and that is the only occupation he knows. He emigrated many years ago from India and managed to work in a factory and then gradually he saved up enough money to buy a limousine and has been driving it ever since.

He is 55 years old and he said he had to give it up because he could not afford the insurance of \$1,200 a month. He had to give it up because, in order to pay that kind of insurance, he had to work some 14 hours a day in driving. He said, "Quite frankly, at age 55, my back is going and I can no longer be in that seat for 14 hours a day in order to make ends meet."

I talked to other limousine drivers, one who said that he simply had to keep the car on the road with only himself driving because when he had the extra driver, the extra cost of insurance made it prohibitive and, therefore, it was better for the extra driver who is working part-time not to be registered on the insurance.

I talked to a small businessman who had two trucks and employed two drivers. He has put up one of the trucks and now, having laid off the second driver, when his one driver comes in, he and his wife make the deliveries in the evening hours to try to make up.

It is a crisis and yet this government's answer is still going to see rates go up by something like 20 per cent this year. This is a government that, with all the studies it does, with all the countless studies it is commissioning—the most studied government in the 12 years that I have been in this Legislature—still refuses to do a direct

comparison with the western provinces, to have an independent study done to see why it is that people who come from western Canada are so much in favour of the kind of auto insurance programs that NDP governments have set up there.

1730

In the weeks following the election, I spent a great deal of time down at the Etobicoke rent review office. Since I was not on the committee on Bill 51, I was trying to understand it, first of all, and it is very difficult to understand the process and regulations—indeed regulations are still coming in—and to best represent my constituents, many of whom have been asked for rent increases of 15 per cent, 20 per cent, 25 per cent.

What the government has created is a bureaucratic monstrosity that tenants cannot understand, that many landlords cannot understand, and indeed when one asks specific questions of the staff in the Ministry of Housing even the staff cannot answer many of those questions.

What we have is a system where the process that worked reasonably well has been eliminated from the past rent review system. Under the old system, tenants and their representatives—in my case—would go to rent review. The landlord would be on the other side of the desk. He would make certain estimates and projections based on his previous expenditures and we would discuss those. There was a certain dynamic that allowed the landlord to show the tenants exactly where the money was going and the tenants to give some feedback to the landlord of where perhaps he may not be getting the best bang for his buck in terms of spending and so forth.

It allowed tenants to understand exactly why a rent review officer might give a certain increase; it allowed a landlord at least to understand where the tenants were coming from, and often—in some, many instances that I could think of over the years that I have represented tenants—come up with ways in which he could run the building more efficiently.

That process is gone. Instead, what we have is a bureaucratic process in which tenants or their representatives have to go in and make a written presentation based on what the landlord has filed. In the cases of new buildings, the landlord does not have an obligation to even file the invoices. The ruling I have received from the head of the Etobicoke rent review office is that it is sufficient to simply present an auditor's or accountant's report.

The problem is that the kind of expenditures which one may have for tax purposes may not be

the same kind of expenditures that one requires for the rent review process. In other words, some items that for tax purposes might be able to be written off in one year, under a normal rent review process would be considered a capital expenditure and therefore amortized over a period of years for rent review purposes.

There is no way of our knowing exactly what is in there. There is no way of even questioning, as we have had in the past, where expenditures put into one building in fact belong to another building that the landlord may own, and for the purposes of accounting he may simply have found it easier to lump everything together. There is a basic unfairness built into the process of this kind of paper bureaucracy.

We have the system where tenants are still waiting for the first decision to come down. We have a system that is so bureaucratic that the average tenant will walk into a rent review office, and despite the fact that he or she may be very intelligent, will look at the files and walk out again. I can assure members that as someone who sat there. They were very courteous, they said, "Since you are going to be here a long time, there is a spare office." I watched tenants come in, not just from my own riding but from all over the city of Etobicoke and the city of York. They would take the file, look at it for 15 minutes and walk out because they did not know what to do with it.

Under our present legal aid system, if you happen to be a single parent with one child and earn more than \$18,000 a year, you do not qualify for any kind of legal aid, so you cannot go to an organization such as Metro Tenants' Legal Services that can provide you with assistance. Even if you fall under the catchment of the legal aid system, if you happen to live in a building where 51 per cent of the tenants are over that, you do not qualify for representation either.

What you have is a bureaucratic nightmare in which tenants are faced with something that is very difficult to understand and very time-consuming and where most of them, unless they have an MPP who will represent them or some other community group or an accountant on the tenants' association, or someone like that, go without any kind of representation.

Let me give members an example of the kind of problems that face even someone who has some experience in dealing with these matters—at least under the old act, where I represented thousands of tenants—when he goes and tries to represent tenants.

In the case of one building, 40 Panorama Court, the landlord withdrew his original appli-

cation and instead submitted four crates of materials. He said that because the building was a multiple-unit residential building, because it was also registered with the city of Etobicoke as a condominium, he would introduce one for every unit in the building. When I asked the rent review staff when I could have access to those files, they said: "We just do not know. It is taking us weeks to organize those files."

We have a system in which I have to write a series of questions. The landlord then writes back a series of comments. The rent review officer makes a decision. If I am not happy with it, then I have to go through an appeal in which the tenants and myself can sit and face the landlord and go through the process all over again.

We now have over 20,000 applications that have not been dealt with. In the case of many of the buildings in my riding that are new buildings, the tenants received notice before January 1, 1987, and therefore must pay whatever amount the landlord has asked for. It is virtually a loan to the landlord. If he has asked for 25 per cent, they have to pay the 25 per cent. If the rent review eventually comes down in terms of 15 per cent, they have in fact given him that 10 per cent over a period of a year or—only the good Lord probably knows when the decision will come down.

Even when you have something fairly simple, such as a case where a landlord has applied for a rent review decision and then not filed the materials, you cannot get a decision as to whether the application is going to be dismissed.

I wrote on behalf of tenants in a couple of buildings in my riding, saying: "The landlord had until two months ago to supply the documentation. He has not done that. Since there are no files for me to examine, I ask that it therefore be dismissed, because I cannot represent the tenants by the deadline provided."

When I asked the head of the rent review office in Etobicoke when I would have a decision on my letter for a dismissal, he said, "Well, your letter for dismissal goes into the file, and we deal with the files in order." So he may not get around to dealing with my request for a dismissal, even though it may be a 20-minute decision that he might have to make, until six months or so from now.

What we are going to have in a few months' time is some tenants who are not in the new buildings who are going to face major rent increases, and unless they have taken into account that this might happen, we will find large numbers of them falling behind in their rent as a

result of what they owe the landlord, and indeed a number of evictions.

1740

In the case of landlords who have collected money in the buildings occupied after January 1, 1976, we are going to have the problem of how the landlord refunds to the tenant if the tenant has moved. I had one landlord call me up and say, "When eventually the decision comes down, to what extent do I have to go and try to repay the money?" He said: "Is a registered letter to their last known address sufficient? What is the procedure? What is the obligation?" Of course, there is no obligation under the act. There is no protection there.

The tenant who has moved out will have to take some initiative, if he knows the procedure, to find out whether or not the landlord received what he asked for, find out how much money is owed to him and then ask for it. If the landlord does not pay it, he will have to take him to small claims court, assuming the amount owed by that time is within the amount that will qualify under small claims court.

We also have the situation that in the city of Etobicoke, throughout Metropolitan Toronto and probably in a number of other areas, most of the buildings built after 1979 have been registered with the planning department as condominiums, so we have the situation where there is no requirement to disclose to a tenant that he has in fact moved into a condominium rather than into a rental building—all the units are rented—and that at any time the landlord can say, "I have decided to sell off the units."

Looking at these buildings, many of them were built with provincial tax subsidies as, quote, "rental" buildings. We have seen that. Many of them in the past received multiple-unit residential buildings and other tax incentives from the federal government. Some have received Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. assistance to build, quote, "affordable housing," and yet there is no guarantee that when the next hot real estate market comes along they will not be taken off the rental market and sold off to whoever has the money.

Let me give the members an example of how that is happening even now that the market has cooled off a little bit. The tenants at 2645 Kipling Avenue received on November 11, or it may have been November 12, a letter dated November 11. These are people, of course, who thought they were in a rental building. Nobody ever told them anything different. It is a building that was built seven or eight years ago and now the tenants

are told, "We are prepared to sell your home, your apartment, and we are going to give you the first option." A day later they saw that this option was being advertised in the *Toronto Star* in a big ad.

If somebody in a two-bedroom unit in that apartment does not qualify for the financing of \$115,000—I believe that was the cost they were asking for a two-bedroom—then he is in real trouble. A lot of the tenants do not understand that of course it is the purchaser who is the only one who has the ability to evict them and so many of them have started to move out. What we are going to see is a series of events in which poor people, working people, will be buying condominium units only to find that they cannot get possession, without going to court, from other equally working class people who are the tenants who happen to occupy the very units they have purchased.

We saw that a few years ago with these phoney condominiums called share-equity condominiums. We saw the tragedy in my riding where we would have many people who would be recent immigrants trying to evict other people who were recent immigrants, who did not know the law, did not know their rights and were in just desperate situations.

We do know, even though we do not have a decision, exactly how much the new act will be awarding. The first of the orders became public through disclosure in this House—a leak in this House, if I might use that word. The orders that were issued in the third week of October range from 4.9 per cent to 25 per cent. One landlord received even more than he had requested from rent review.

If we look at the way in which the act was set up, Bill 51 establishes Ontario's new rent review system but it was only given royal assent in December 1986 after countless committee hearings; and because of the two-stage process, we are wondering when the decisions are likely to come down now.

If we look at the statements of the previous minister, which sound an awful lot like the statements of the current, new minister, we see such things as the comment over and over again that somehow the tenants approved of this new bill. Of course, nothing could be further from the truth.

The previous minister said it, and then this line was reiterated by the present minister on November 5. She said, "We have put in place a rent review process based upon the unique agreement reached by a committee of landlords

and tenants." What she failed to mention was that in August 1987, seven of the nine tenant members of that committee wrote a letter to the Premier criticizing the implementation of the economic loss provisions in Bill 51 and criticizing the bill. So what we have then is no agreement by the tenants; and indeed the two largest tenant associations, as I pointed out during the debate on housing, the association of Ottawa and the association of Metro, in fact have condemned the bill overwhelmingly.

The publication of the Federation of Metro Toronto Tenants' Associations in the winter of 1987 stated, "While tenant income is falling, Bill 51 may allow rent increases to rise an average of 10.5 per cent a year." It says in the action of Bill 51 and Bill 11 that not only did the government fail to deliver on its promises made by the Premier to tenants, but they were giant steps in the wrong direction. Both pieces of legislation put landlords' profits ahead of people's needs.

Likewise, the present minister then gives the impression that somehow this government is trying to come to grips with the problem of those people who cannot even afford the private enterprise housing.

On November 4 in the Ontario Legislature, when asked a question about Liberal housing election promises, the minister said, "I thank the member for Markham for giving me the opportunity to make it clear to everyone here that the government of Ontario is committed to building 102,000 units of affordable housing by the year 1990."

In fact, she is not committed to building 102,000 affordable housing units. The government is committed to building only 56,186 new units by 1990, and this works out to an average of 13,220 units over the four and one third fiscal years, much less than the housing needs of the present people who are waiting in line. What she was doing then was using doubletalk in terms of the figures.

You may want to ask, Mr. Speaker, where were those extra units then? She promised 102,000, and I am saying she is committed to building only some 56,000. The remaining units, of course, are not new units at all. They are not new units that are being built: 36,000 are existing units receiving some kind of rehabilitation funds; 4,750 are existing rental units seeing new rent supplements; 300 units are being vacated through various types of incentives; and 4,950 units are being stimulated through incentives that encourage municipalities to limit the zoning and planning bureaucracy and so forth. So she is not

building 102,000 new units by 1990. That is simply not the case.

1750

When you sit in my riding, as I did on Wednesday night until 10 minutes to midnight, listening to people's problems, you would be surprised how many of them are people who are literally out in the street in this city or are living in just abominable conditions of two and three families to a two-bedroom apartment because they have no place to live.

I would like to deal with another item which is very close to my heart and that is the matter of a reference that both I and Mr. Shymko, the former member for High Park-Swansea, have been trying to get dealt with for a number of years. One of the great passions of Mr. Renwick, the former member for Riverdale, was his commitment to civil liberties. I think that is a passion that all of us share; at least all of us feel we live in a democracy and we are committed to that. Mr. Renwick introduced a motion asking that the standing committee on the Ombudsman look at ways in which we could deal with civil liberties abuses of the relatives of people in our riding.

I represent a riding that has a number of Spanish-speaking constituents. The kinds of stories they used to tell me about Argentina, the kinds of stories they still tell me about Chile and some of the stories still coming out of the Iron Curtain countries, are still of concern to many of our people.

One of the things the Ombudsman committee did was to hold hearings. We established that it would be constitutional for the Ombudsman committee in this province to deal with matters of human rights anywhere in the world. Indeed, our federal colleagues stated that would be so. We know from people, such as the spokesperson for the civil liberties movement and also other organizations such as the Scarborough Foreign Mission Society, that often the most important thing that can happen when a person is arrested and put in jail in some of these totalitarian countries is that there be some kind of public outcry or focus in the more democratic countries.

Our committee, in its 13th report, recommended a way in which we, as a Legislature, as a democratic parliament, could deal with human rights abuses in various countries. Yet we have still failed to deal with the resolution of that committee and give that committee and the Ombudsman of Ontario those powers.

There are an awful lot of people out there whose relatives are dying in jails, whose relatives

are being tortured, and this Legislature sits on a report and does not deal with it.

Niels Holm, the Danish Ombudsman, in his paper entitled *The Ombudsman and Human Rights*, raised a very interesting issue. He framed it as follows, "To what extent should the results achieved at the international level in the field of human rights be taken into consideration by the Ombudsman?" He gave a very affirmative answer that it should be.

If you go to Sweden, the centre of the Ombudsman movement, where the concept of the Ombudsman started, you find that the chief Ombudsman for the country reserves as his priority dealing with human rights issues.

I think we have an excellent Ombudsman in Ontario, Dr. Daniel Hill. He shares that concern for human rights and he has demonstrated it in ways which have often been difficult for him. But at the same time, we are faced with the fact that this House does not deal with a very important report. I hope that the new member for High Park-Swansea (Mr. Fleet) will have the same passion for this report that his predecessor Mr. Shymko had in his concern that this report be dealt with. I think it is a nonpartisan issue that should be taken up by all of us.

I spoke just a minute ago about the problems of the great number of people waiting to get into any kind of rent-geared-to-income housing. One of the most tragic groups are those people who do not qualify under the present guidelines for geared-to-income housing because they are simply poor. They do not qualify, because they are not families. In other words, it is not a man and woman with a child or more. They do not qualify, because they are not disabled in some way or because they are not seniors. That does not make them any less poor; it does not make their housing needs any less significant.

Over the years, I urged the former Progressive Conservative Minister of Housing Claude Bennett, and he said: "It is the feds' fault. It is those terrible Liberals in Ottawa; they do not want to subsidize it."

Hon. Mr. Eakins: Not any more.

Mr. Philip: He cannot have that excuse any more. But the present Liberal government can deal with this issue now and immediately. To have the kind of situation where people who are simply poor but who do not qualify as a family, as seniors or as disabled in some way, are left out on the street is a tragedy in this society.

I want to also deal with the need in some of the issues that concern me about the way in which the Ontario Housing Corp. is operated.

Over the years, I have been critical of the transfer policy of Ontario Housing. I understand the transfer policy is being reviewed by the ministry, and there is a need to expand the allowable transfer criteria in the nonprofit sector. There is a need to allow transfers by people in the Metro Toronto Housing Authority, for example, to co-op housing if they so wish. They cannot do that now unless they are involved in the original board that sets up the co-op. There is a need for greater flexibility in transferring for reasons that might be called psychological rather than necessarily physical requirements.

One of the problems we are also facing is the need for long-term reserve funds in each of the projects. If we look at what we have done in the condominium area, the Condominium Act specifies that each condominium has to pay a certain percentage of its total maintenance costs—I believe the figure is five per cent—into a reserve fund. The purpose of that is that when there is a major capital expenditure needed—namely, a roof goes or the furnace goes—then you have a way of paying for that without taking it out of ongoing operating budgets.

I suggest the same thing holds true for government housing. You have to plan for the fact that buildings, as they grow older, have to be retrofitted. You cannot simply take it out of ongoing budgets or, eventually, the crunch comes when you have major expenditures to deal with.

One also needs more control of subcontracts by local housing managers. I understand there is a move on now, at least on an experimental basis, to have an annual meeting at which tenants will be asked what they feel are the needs of a particular project.

The select committee on housing, in 1977, made a very specific recommendation. I was pleased to chair that particular inquiry. It was not a select committee; it was done by the standing committee on administration of justice, as a matter of fact. One of the recommendations was that each project should be annually costed and that the budget for each project should be presented to the tenants, to the community, and there could be an open discussion of it.

On motion by Mr. Philip, the debate was adjourned.

The House adjourned at 6 p.m.

ERRATA

No.	Page	Column	Line	Should read:
9	365	2	9	"George Strachan, past president of Wellington
9	365	2	13	want another dump, Strachan could be speaking
9	383	2	29	while ago. The letter is from Centre Wellington
9	383	2	34	"In regards to our closure of the Centre

RESPONSE TO PETITIONS**INTERIM RESPONSE**

Sessional papers 47 and P-1, re naturopathy.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: The preparation of an

answer requires additional time. I therefore anticipate that a response will be tabled by November 30, 1987, approximately.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*

(130 seats)

First Session, 34th Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. Lincoln M. Alexander, PC, QC

-
- Adams, Peter (Peterborough L)
 Allen, Richard (Hamilton West NDP)
 Ballinger, William G. (Durham-York L)
 Beer, Charles (York North L)
 Black, Kenneth H. (Muskoka-Georgian Bay L)
 Bossy, Maurice L. (Chatham-Kent L)
Bradley, Hon. James J., Minister of the Environment (St. Catharines L)
 Brandt, Andrew S. (Sarnia PC)
 Breaugh, Michael J. (Oshawa NDP)
 Brown, Michael A. (Algoma-Manitoulin L)
 Bryden, Marion (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
 Callahan, Robert V. (Brampton South L)
 Campbell, Sterling (Sudbury L)
Caplan, Hon. Elinor, Minister of Health (Oriole L)
 Carrothers, Douglas A. (Oakville South L)
 Charlton, Brian A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)
 Chiarelli, Robert (Ottawa West L)
 Cleary, John C. (Cornwall L)
 Collins, Shirley (Wentworth East L)
Conway, Hon. Sean G., Minister of Mines (Renfrew North L)
 Cooke, David R. (Kitchener L)
 Cooke, David S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
 Cordiano, Joseph (Lawrence L)
 Cousens, W. Donald (Markham PC)
 Cureatz, Sam L. (Durham East PC)
Curling, Hon. Alvin, Minister of Skills Development (Scarborough North L)
 Daigeler, Hans (Nepean L)
 Dietsch, Michael M. (St. Catharines-Brock L)
Eakins, Hon. John F., Minister of Municipal Affairs (Victoria-Haliburton L)
Edighoffer, Hon. Hugh A., Speaker (Perth L)
 Elliot, R. Walter (Halton North L)
Elston, Hon. Murray J., Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Bruce L)
 Epp, Herbert A. (Waterloo North L)
 Eves, Ernie L. (Parry Sound PC)
 Farnan, Michael (Cambridge NDP)
 Faubert, Frank (Scarborough-Ellesmere L)
 Fawcett, Joan M. (Northumberland L)
 Ferraro, Rick E. (Guelph L)
 Fleet, David (High Park-Swansea L)
Fontaine, Hon. René, Minister of Northern Development (Cochrane North L)
Fulton, Hon. Ed, Minister of Transportation (Scarborough East L)
 Furlong, Allan W. (Durham Centre L)
Grandmaitre, Hon. Bernard C., Minister of Revenue (Ottawa East L)
 Grier, Ruth A. (Etobicoke-Lakeshore NDP)
 Haggerty, Ray (Niagara South L)
 Hampton, Howard (Rainy River NDP)
 Harris, Michael D. (Nipissing PC)
 Hart, Christine E. (York East L)
 Henderson, D. James (Etobicoke-Humber L)
Hošek, Hon. Chaviva, Minister of Housing (Oakwood L)
 Jackson, Cameron (Burlington South PC)
 Johnson, Jack (Wellington PC)
 Johnston, Richard F. (Scarborough West NDP)
 Kanter, Ron (St. Andrew-St. Patrick L)
Kerrio, Hon. Vincent G., Minister of Natural Resources (Niagara Falls L)
 Keyes, Kenneth A. (Kingston and the Islands L)
 Kozyra, Taras B. (Port Arthur L)
Kwinter, Hon. Monte, Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Wilson Heights L)
 Laughren, Floyd (Nickel Belt NDP)
 LeBourdais, Linda (Etobicoke West L)
 Leone, Laureano (Downsview L)
 Lipsett, Ron (Grey L)
 Lupusella, Tony (Dovercourt L)
 MacDonald, Keith (Prince Edward-Lennox L)
 Mackenzie, Bob (Hamilton East NDP)
 Mahoney, Steven W. (Mississauga West L)
Mancini, Hon. Remo, Minister without Portfolio (Essex South L)
 Marland, Margaret (Mississauga South PC)
 Martel, Shelley (Sudbury East NDP)
 Matrondola, Gino (Willowdale L)
 McCague, George R. (Simcoe West PC)
 McClelland, Carman (Brampton North L)
 McGuigan, James F. (Essex-Kent L)
 McGuinty, Dalton J. (Ottawa South L)
 McLean, Allan K. (Simcoe East PC)
McLeod, Hon. Lyn, Minister of Colleges and Universities (Fort William L)
 Miclash, Frank (Kenora L)
 Miller, Gordon I. (Norfolk L)
 Morin, Gilles E. (Carleton East L)
 Morin-Strom, Karl E. (Sault Ste. Marie NDP)

Munro, Hon. Lily O., Minister of Culture and Communications (Hamilton Centre L)
 Neumann, David E. (Brantford L)
 Nicholas, Cindy (Scarborough Centre L)
 Nixon, J. Bradford (York Mills L)

Nixon, Hon. Robert F., Deputy Premier, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics and Minister of Financial Institutions (Brant-Haldimand L)

Offer, Steven (Mississauga North L)

O'Neil, Hon. Hugh P., Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Quinte L)

O'Neill, Yvonne (Ottawa-Rideau L)

Owen, Bruce (Simcoe Centre L)

Patten, Hon. Richard, Minister of Government Services (Ottawa Centre L)

Pelissero, Harry E. (Lincoln L)

Peterson, Hon. David R., Premier and President of the Council and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (London Centre L)

Philip, Ed (Etobicoke-Rexdale NDP)

Phillips, Hon. Gerry, Minister of Citizenship (Scarborough-Agincourt L)

Poirier, Jean, Deputy Speaker and Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House (Prescott and Russell L)

Pollock, Jim (Hastings-Peterborough PC)

Polsinelli, Claudio (Yorkview L)

Poole, Dianne (Eglinton L)

Pope, Alan W. (Cochrane South PC)

Pouliot, Gilles (Lake Nipigon NDP)

Rae, Bob (York South NDP)

Ramsay, Hon. David, Minister of Correctional Services (Timiskaming L)

Ray, Michael C. (Windsor-Walkerville L)

Reville, David (Riverdale NDP)

Reycraft, Douglas R. (Middlesex L)

Riddell, Hon. Jack, Minister of Agriculture and Food (Huron L)

Roberts, Marietta L. D., Deputy Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House (Elgin L)

Runciman, Robert W. (Leeds-Grenville PC)

Ruprecht, Tony (Parkdale L)

Scott, Hon. Ian G., Attorney General (St. George-St. David L)

Smith, David W. (Lambton L)

Smith, Hon. E. Joan, Solicitor General (London South L)

Sola, John (Mississauga East L)

Sorbara, Hon. Gregory S., Minister of Labour (York Centre L)

South, Larry (Frontenac-Addington L)

Sterling, Norman W. (Carleton PC)

Stoner, Norah (Durham West L)

Sullivan, Barbara (Halton Centre L)

Swart, Mel (Welland-Thorold NDP)

Sweeney, Hon. John, Minister of Community and Social Services (Kitchener-Wilmot L)

Tatham, Charlie (Oxford L)

Van Horne, Ronald G. (London North L)

Velshi, Murad (Don Mills L)

Villeneuve, Noble (Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry PC)

Ward, Hon. Christopher C., Minister of Education (Wentworth North L)

Wildman, Bud (Algoma NDP)

Wilson, Hon. Mavis, Minister without Portfolio (Dufferin-Peel L)

Wiseman, Douglas J. (Lanark-Renfrew PC)

Wong, Hon. Robert C., Minister of Energy (Fort York L)

Wrye, Hon. William, Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Windsor-Sandwich L)

*The alphabetical list of members appears in each issue. Lists of the members of the executive council, parliamentary assistants and members of committees, brought up to date as necessary, are published in Hansard in the first and last issues of each session and on the first sitting day of each month.

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Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

First Session, 34th Parliament
Tuesday, November 24, 1987



Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: Claude L. DesRosiers

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, November 24, 1987

The House met at 1:32 p.m.

Prayers.

ESTIMATES

Hon. Mr. Elston: I have a message from His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, signed by his own hand.

Mr. Speaker: The Lieutenant Governor transmits estimates of certain sums required for the services of the province for the year ending March 31, 1988, and with the revisions therein noted, recommends them to the Legislative Assembly; signed by the Honourable Lincoln Alexander.

ANNUAL REPORT, OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL AUDITOR

Mr. Speaker: I beg to inform the members that today I am laying upon the table the annual report of the Provincial Auditor of Ontario for the year ended March 31, 1987.

VISITORS

Mr. Speaker: Many members may be aware that the Ontario branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association is hosting the 12th Canadian regional parliamentary seminar. We have representatives from the federal Parliament, all the Canadian legislatures except Alberta's and the two territories. These distinguished guests are seated in the west public gallery, and I would ask the members to join me in welcoming them to the assembly.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

INJURED WORKERS

Mr. Laughren: Two years ago, in 1985, efforts were made to establish an injured workers' rehabilitation program in the Sudbury area. The feeling was that workers could be dealt with close to their homes and they would be back to work sooner as well.

In the following year, 1986, a feasibility study was done that showed the program was feasible, desirable and cost-effective. In 1987, detailed proposals were developed, a board of directors was struck and arrangements were made with Laurentian Hospital to establish it there.

In June 1987, a meeting was held with the former Minister of Labour, the chairman of the Workers' Compensation Board, the regional chairman from Sudbury and local members to work out details. It was agreed that this project would receive a very high priority indeed.

Then, in August 1987, the project was rejected unilaterally and arbitrarily by the Workers' Compensation Board. It said that it was not cost-effective, despite the fact that even if workers get back to work four days earlier, it is cost-effective for the board.

I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that injured workers in Sudbury, the regional municipality, Laurentian Hospital and the board of the injured workers' rehab program all feel betrayed by both the Workers' Compensation Board and the Minister of Labour (Mr. Sorbara). He should get off his duff and get this program back on the rails.

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE

Mr. Runciman: In the last year or so, we in this House have heard a great deal about the merits of government-run auto insurance from the official opposition. While we may share the concerns of the official opposition about increased rates and the hardship they may cause, we definitely do not believe in creating another government bureaucracy to deal with the problem.

It is interesting to note that the two provinces most often quoted by the New Democratic Party with respect to government-run auto insurance have both just released their figures for the past year. In British Columbia, due to large losses by that province's auto agency, rates for individual drivers increased on average by 22 per cent. Let me repeat that. The average increase for drivers in British Columbia will be 22 per cent.

In Manitoba, the favourable example quoted by the official opposition, we learn that the government scheme lost—and I repeat lost—a grand total of \$50 million last year. That means increases for those drivers in Manitoba are expected to average well over 25 per cent to make up for this shortfall.

As I said from the outset, we need some regulatory changes in the way we do business in this province in respect of protecting drivers but

we do not need, as proved by the facts I have given the members today, government-run auto insurance.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr. Owen: I rise today to bring attention to a matter of serious concern to many residents in the city of Barrie and across the province.

On Sunday, December 27, the Georgian Mall in Barrie will apparently open all its small stores for business as usual. This unfortunate decision was made by the owners of the mall, Cadillac Fairview, notwithstanding objections from individual store owners and their employees. Cadillac Fairview is exploiting a loophole in the Retail Business Holidays Act that allows a store to open on Sunday if it had been closed on the preceding Saturday. In this instance, the preceding Saturday is Boxing Day.

It is indeed sad that the employees of these stores will be forced to cut short an already brief Christmas holiday to satisfy the greed of a large corporation. Many will be forced to alter holiday travel plans or cancel long-standing family commitments. Two other large Barrie malls, Bayfield and Kozlov, have indicated their opposition to opening on the Sunday but will be forced to open if Georgian Mall opens.

On Christmas Sunday we should hear the jingle of sleigh bells, not the jingle of a cash register. Cadillac Fairview is reviving the image of Scrooge, and its next words will probably be: "Christmas? Humbug." They may be legally right but certainly are morally and ethically wrong, and I appeal to the minister to correct the loophole in the legislation and to Cadillac Fairview to reconsider what it is doing.

1340

LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION

Mr. Allen: Whatever one thinks of the recent contract won by McDonald's Canada to place the big M alongside the spires of Kremlin Square and the Imperial Palace in Leningrad, there is surely a lesson in that for the Ontario government and for educators in this province.

McDonald's Restaurants of Canada won this contract not just because it was a Canadian submission—although that had something to do with it—but also because it was the one institution in the McDonald's chain that could provide 50 staff to man the new development in the Russian language.

A recent presidential commission in the United States has attacked the failure of language instruction in the United States for many

blunders in diplomacy and many missed opportunities in international trade, and perhaps Ontario should note that most of these employees came from western Canada, not from Ontario.

Ontario has immense language resources, which it can squander or which it can develop to enhance our global presence in trade, aid and diplomacy. By not moving boldly to incorporate heritage languages into the school day or by developing such school institutions as bilingual schools for major language groups in Ontario, the Liberal government and indeed educators in Ontario who resist this trend are missing many good opportunities for us and also impoverishing our future in an important way.

EASTERN ONTARIO ECONOMIC OUTLOOK CONFERENCE

Mr. Villeneuve: Yesterday the second annual Eastern Ontario Economic Outlook Conference was held at the conference centre in Ottawa. I attended as an interested member of this Legislature and found it to be a most informative conference which brought together representatives from eastern Ontario cities, towns and rural municipalities, along with people from the business sector.

Speakers from the private sector, different ministry representatives and the federal government were on hand to further explain their involvement in supporting and promoting eastern Ontario. I was pleased to see several federal members of Parliament attending, participating and showing interest and concern regarding the plight of eastern Ontario municipalities and businesses.

However, I was most disappointed, as were the people present at this conference, to note there were no Liberal members present at all. Heaven knows, there must be enough of them around, they could have found one or two to attend. However, they did not.

The Ontario government has announced, with a great deal of fanfare, that it now has regional caucuses to listen to concerns and problems from different regions, particularly from eastern Ontario. This, in my opinion, is the one gathering where elected members of this assembly should have been present.

I believe this goes one step further in proving the total lack of interest and concern by this Liberal government for eastern Ontario. Lip-service is all we get. This government should be ashamed of the way it is treating those areas away from Toronto.

CHRISTMAS TURKEYS

Mr. Callahan: I rise on a matter of great importance, to speak on behalf of the turkeys of this country. I read in no less impressive a column than that of Orland French that there is a party in this country that is going after those turkeys.

Mr. Mackenzie: They're gobbling them up.

Mr. Callahan: Gobbling them up; thank you very much. They intend to gather up those turkeys and deprive others of turkey for Christmas. Those of us who do not have \$100 to contribute for the turkey sale by that renowned party will have to hide our turkeys.

All I can say is, "Turkeys, rise up; don't let them do it to you."

EDUCATION

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I am sure the Tories feel they have been basted again.

There is a conference on inner-city schools taking place that is again reinforcing the fact that poor kids in our society get streamed lower, have higher drop-out rates and in fact our education system continues to fail them. But the new news that is out is more disturbing still, and that is that French immersion programs in inner-city schools tend to reinforce class stratification and that kids who are from working-class families tend to be moved out of those courses whereas kids from middle-class families get to have their benefit.

I would hope that the Minister of Education (Mr. Ward) would look at this and take some remedial action to make sure the upward mobility that can come from a bilingual capacity is given to young poor kids as well as to the middle class.

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY

CANADIAN INSURANCE EXCHANGE

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I wish to inform the House that the Canadian Insurance Exchange will cease its operations and work with the Ontario Development Corp. in an orderly phasing out of its affairs.

In 1982, the then government announced a plan to appoint an insurance exchange advisory committee, which in 1983 submitted a report favourable to implementing a Canadian Insurance Exchange. That government appointed the Insurance Exchange Implementation Committee in January 1985. In December 1986, legislation enabling the creation of the exchange received royal assent.

Unfortunately, the Canadian Insurance Exchange has not received sufficient binding

commitments from individuals or companies willing to make an investment in an insurance syndicate. Without such firm commitments, we felt we could no longer continue government loan guarantees, and I informed the exchange of this decision.

Primarily, it appears the international reinsurance business cycle is at a point when there is apparent capacity to deal with existing reinsurance needs. In addition, we have witnessed the creation and licensing of four large reciprocal insurers and the arranging of self-insurance schemes in Ontario.

A further deterrent to participation in the CIE may well be the recent syndicate failures and bankruptcies at the New York Insurance Exchange and difficulties being encountered at the Miami Insurance Exchange.

I am today tabling in the House financial material relating to the expenditures of the Canadian Insurance Exchange.

Let me also add that while the operations of the exchange are now being concluded, the enabling legislation for such an exchange remains in place in the event that market conditions change in the future.

RESPONSES

CANADIAN INSURANCE EXCHANGE

Mr. Swart: I am not sure that anyone is going to shed any great tears about the winding down of the existing insurance exchange, which has not been very successful. However, I want to point out to the minister that the need for domestic reinsurance in this nation is very great. There is still something like \$1 billion going out of this nation each year on reinsurance.

I suggest to the minister that he should be devising a local reinsurance scheme with whatever mechanisms are necessary to bring it about, so that money does not leave this country, so that reinsurance money can be invested here and work for the people of this province and the people of this nation.

Mr. Runciman: I have just a brief comment in response to the Minister of Financial Institution's (Mr. R. F. Nixon) statement about the Canadian Insurance Exchange. It is really rather a dramatic change and, in my view, raises some serious questions of credibility in terms of the insurance companies' claims of a year and a half ago and, I believe, to some extent the Slater commission recommendations and conclusions as well.

A year and a half ago we were told we were in an insurance liability crisis across North America. Certainly, according to Slater and to many of

the insurance companies in this province, one of the primary reasons for that so-called crisis was the inability to obtain offshore reinsurance.

Now the minister is coming to us and in the one paragraph he is saying it appears that the international reinsurance business is at a point where there is apparent capacity to deal with existing needs. That has to strike us as peculiar only a year and a half after this continent was in the midst of an insurance crisis. It raises some very serious questions. We hope the minister is going to be forthcoming with answers in the next few days.

ORAL QUESTIONS

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Mr. B. Rae: I have a question for the Minister of Health. The minister no doubt will have had a chance to read the report of the Provincial Auditor, which I think is one of the most eloquent and devastating indictments of community health programs and the problems facing our psychiatric patients in the province.

In responding to this strong indictment of the care, the problems in the institutions themselves, the fact that there are people in institutions who should not be there, the lack of community care, the lack of standards with respect to privately licensed facilities, I wonder in particular if the minister can confirm the finding of the Provincial Auditor that because of shortages in facilities some residential care homes were permitted to operate despite failing to comply with the conditions of their licences. Can she confirm if that is true?

1350

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I have just had a brief opportunity to review the auditor's findings. I want to say to the Leader of the Opposition that I am in agreement with a number of the auditor's recommendations. I share his concerns for the state of the psychiatric hospitals. We are committed to increasing the level of community-based services.

I believe that in the past two years we have begun to make progress. The auditor does point that out in his report, and I know that was drawn to the attention of the Leader of the Opposition.

We have begun, as the auditor noted, to increase the number of community-based support services and supportive housing programs. While I believe we have made significant progress, I will agree with the Leader of the Opposition that we do have a long way to go.

Mr. B. Rae: Let us be very clear on this. If I can refer for example to one problem, the auditor does say that some steps are being taken with respect to housing. Specifically, can the minister give us the assurance that she will be announcing new programs to address what can only be described as fundamental flaws in the system with respect to mental health? Can she give us the assurance that these programs will be announced before Christmas?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: Let me assure the Leader of the Opposition that I believe our record over the past two years speaks clearly to our commitment. We have only begun to demonstrate that commitment to provide an appropriate balance of care for both psychiatric hospitals, units in general hospitals and community-based resources.

We have announced just recently a doubling of funds for community mental health programs as well as addiction and drug abuse programs. I believe we have some models that we have just begun to bring forward. I am hoping to have some announcements in the very near future, but I cannot commit at this time that they will be made by Christmas.

Mr. B. Rae: The problem I am having with the minister's answers is that what she seems to be finding in the auditor's report is a statement that the government is on the right track. What I find in the auditor's report is a very strong, effective indictment of practices which extend well back prior to 1985, but many of which have continued since 1985.

Specifically, can the minister tell us what new programs she is going to introduce to ensure that patients are no longer in psychiatric institutions when they could be in the community? Can she tell us that community services will be there in terms of housing and rehabilitation to ensure that patients are not simply left on their own to wander around the streets of Toronto, Sarnia or any other part of the community? Can she give us the assurance that these programs will be announced prior to Christmas because of the urgency that is contained in the auditor's report released today?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I am not prepared today, nor do I think it would be appropriate, to accept criticism for anything that has occurred within this ministry beyond the past two and a half years. I think the auditor did note that we are making progress, and we have taken significant steps forward in this area recently.

I would suggest to the Leader of the Opposition that we announced that community mental

health programs would be doubled over the next three years to \$130 million. I am personally committed to ensuring that the programs we bring forward respond exactly to what the auditor has mentioned today.

I share with the Leader of the Opposition his concern. I believe we are going in the right direction. We have brought together a community mental health advisory committee to look at the allocation of those resources so that we could have community input.

The person who was announced was Robert Graham, who has served as chairman of the district health councils over the years, and I believe his input and that of his committee will be valuable as we allocate those resources.

I also want to involve the DHCs so that the communities that are most involved will be able to assist us in ensuring that we meet the needs of those within the mental health communities.

ACID RAIN

Mr. B. Rae: I have a question of the Minister of the Environment. Can he explain why the auditor found that the emissions from the four largest contributors to acid rain in the province were not being verified by the Ministry of the Environment?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: We have used a system which is looking at the figures that are produced by the four specific companies involved and verifying those figures. As a result of the initial contacts the auditor has made with our ministry to draw this to our attention, we are now implementing a system whereby we will visit the companies periodically without notice and seize samples of either the fuel or the ore for analysis of the sulphur content.

In addition to that, it is our intention to engage what I refer to as a scientific or engineering firm, independent of the Ministry of the Environment, which will assess the method of verification utilized in this and other systems, and we will be implementing the recommendations of that particular firm.

Mr. B. Rae: The minister has, as usual, woollied over the fact that the auditor states very specifically and clearly that the ministry has not been verifying the emissions from the four largest polluters in the province with respect to acid gas emissions. Given the fact the government does not have this independent capacity when the minister makes statements such as consistently saying how well things are going with respect to acid gas emissions and how things are moving along, can he confirm that when he

has made those statements he has been relying entirely on information supplied to him by the polluters themselves?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: As the Leader of the Opposition would likely know, the government assesses all the information which is provided to it by these companies and does its calculations to determine whether or not they are in compliance. If the member were to compare that method with other methods that are used in other jurisdictions, he would find that it is similar. I have always considered the auditor's report to be significant for this reason: what is important is that at the very first suggestion by the auditor that he felt the system utilized was not adequate, we began to take those steps to implement that system.

I should also mention to the Leader of the Opposition—and I think he would recognize this—that as the acid rain program is implemented, the reporting mechanism at the present time is involved in determining which method will be used by Inco, Falconbridge, Algoma and Ontario Hydro to actually put in place a program which will reduce those emissions. The working part, as I call it, or the implementation part of that program does not take place until after December 1988.

Mrs. Grier: Members of this House have heard the minister on very many occasions boast about "the strictness of our Countdown Acid Rain program" and excoriate the federal government and urge it to bring pressure on the government of the United States in order that the US would begin to be as good as Ontario. Does the minister not agree that the comments of the Provincial Auditor seriously undercut those kinds of assertions by this government, and can he assure the House he will take immediate action to make the corrections the Provincial Auditor is suggesting?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: To answer the second question first, I can assure the member that in fact the action that is being taken is not immediate action; it has already taken place, we were already into that.

As the member may know, with this process there are some initial contacts that are made with each of the ministries, drawing to the attention of the ministries some concerns the Provincial Auditor might have. As soon as those contacts are made on any items the auditor expressed concern about, we would begin to implement that, and so we have. I think the member's suggestion is wise, and I have already complied with that suggestion of beginning those steps.

Second, keeping in mind that our program is a future program, I want to underline to the member that they are developing their strategies now. The really important monitoring aspect of this, of course, that people are going to be looking to is when Inco, Falconbridge, Algoma and Ontario Hydro all come forward with their specific programs. We do have the time to put in place the kind of program the auditor has suggested, because the implementation of that will not take place until at least 1989.

1400

Mr. Brandt: On the same question, the Minister of the Environment has indicated in this House that by 1994 it is the intention of his ministry to have reduced sulphur dioxide emissions by in excess of 50 per cent. Since the minister is not monitoring on a direct basis the four largest emitters of sulphur dioxide, and since it would appear that even though he has increased staff he does not have the wherewithal to investigate these particular emissions that are going on on a regular basis, how can he stand up and indicate to us with any degree of certainty that we will meet that 1994 deadline, recognizing as well that the minister does not have the vaguest idea of what technology those companies are going to use between now and 1994? He does not even know whether it will work, is not checking it and has no idea what the reductions are.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: That is why we have the periodic reporting on the development, to go to the second part of the member's question first, because he has drawn this particular report into his question. I think in fairness to him, he is looking at two different aspects of it.

Second, as to how I know it will work, one of the things we wrote into the regulation that was a key part of it—I think the acid rain committee which consisted of all members of the House reviewed that regulation very carefully, as the member will recall, and made recommendations on it—was that we would be looking on a periodic basis. For instance, since the program is in effect they have to report every half year on the progress they are making and on the various kinds of technologies they are trying to develop. In fact, this particular week another reporting took place. Information was released. When I saw what they were doing, as the minister I asked them to look at other areas as well.

I think the member makes a valid point. What he does not want, as the leader of a party and as a man who is concerned about this, is that they look only at one specific option, because if that option did not prove to be viable, we would have

the contention that it could not be implemented by 1994. For that reason, I can say to the member for Sarnia that we are—

Mr. Speaker: Order; supplementary.

Mr. Brandt: I have a whole series of questions but I find it very difficult to go on to the other questions in light of the fact that we are still in a very circuitous way avoiding the answer to the first question I raised. So I will go back to the first question, in fairness to the minister.

He does not have the technology and does not know what the technology is going to be and he has established standards that require a reduction of 50 per cent or more by 1994. Since he is not inspecting the cuts that are being made now or that he hopes are being made now with respect to the four largest polluters in the province, will the minister indicate how we can depend on the minister's word that he is going to meet the 1994 deadline? We are dealing with a whole series of unanswered questions, one of the most fundamental of which is that he is not doing any inspections today.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: The first comment I will make on the cuts is that he said about the cuts having been—

Mr. Brandt: By 1994; in excess of 50 per cent.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: By 1994; he makes the point that we have ordered these cuts and we are not monitoring these cuts. What I want to say to the member for Sarnia is that these significant cuts called for in the Countdown Acid Rain program are cuts that will take place after the four major polluters have brought to us—in December 1988 for three of them and January 1989 for the other one—their program which they can implement for the reduction of acid rain.

There are many technologies that are known today. For instance, if we look at Ontario Hydro, one of them is a scrubber technology that is known. One of the technologies is limestone injection. They can look at conservation, purchases from adjacent provinces and so on. I will not go on in great detail. They can look at all those particular options. We will be able—I would like to give the auditor credit—to improve on the ability to be able to check on those emissions at that point in time.

Mr. Brandt: Out of frustration, I will move on to another supplementary based on the same report. The auditor indicates that there were some 12,000 complaints directed to the ministry from various citizens across this great province of ours.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: Is this a supplementary?

Mr. Brandt: It is still on the auditor's report, so it is a genuine supplementary related to the same question and the same ministry.

Mr. Speaker: Proceed.

Mr. Brandt: I would like to ask the minister why his staff is not following up on those 12,000 complaints.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: The member has, inadvertently of course, misrepresented that part of the auditor's report.

Mr. Brandt: I did not say all 12,000; I said, of the 12,000.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: The member said 12,000. I heard the member say 12,000. I know he did not mean that. He would not have meant the 12,000. No, I said he inadvertently misrepresented it.

Mr. Sterling: You can't say he misrepresented it. You can't say that.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: He would never, even inadvertently, misrepresent it.

Mr. Speaker: Response?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: Anyway, what I want to indicate to him is, to improve upon the system that I inherited from the member for Sarnia, what we have done—

Mr. Brandt: We always followed up on the complaints.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: No. What we have done is, we have instituted a computerized system which now allows us the opportunity to—

Mr. Brandt: We had that before. You didn't institute that.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: In this specific case, that is so. We have done three things and the member asks what those three things are.

First of all, we have implemented a new computerized system which allows us to keep track of all the complaints and the follow-up. That is one advantage.

Mr. Brandt: If you have it all under control, then I will just let it ride.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: The member may object to this—I do not think the official opposition will—but the second thing is that we now conduct a quarterly review of all of these operations to ensure that they are progressing as they should. I think we made progress in addressing this particular problem.

Mr. Brandt: I think I will try another ministry, Mr. Speaker, and I do so because the long litany of responses that I received from the

minister all had to do with questions that I did not ask, but I thank him for it. I thank him for the diatribe, I really do.

Mr. Speaker: A question to which ministry?

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr. Brandt: My question is a very simple one for the Solicitor General, whom I see writing vigorously over there, if I can get her attention for a moment. Will the Solicitor General indicate whether it is accurate that she indicated outside of this House yesterday she would close the loophole relating to December 27, the controversial Sunday opening suggested by some major department stores? Will she also confirm that the Premier (Mr. Peterson) said quite the opposite, that he would not close the loophole? Who is right and what is she going to do and when?

Hon. Mrs. Smith: I think there was a good deal of confusion on everybody's part, among the reporters, as to exactly what the loophole was and I was explaining to them that indeed the loophole could be closed. I did not say whether it would be closed; simply that it could be closed.

Mr. Runciman: That is a shocking revelation. We have here the Toronto Star and the Globe and Mail. The Toronto Star says, "Ontario to close Sunday opening loophole," and the Globe says, "Ontario won't close the loophole." What the Solicitor General is saying here is that really the paper that is recognized as the unofficial government organ is wrong, and that is certainly tough to swallow.

Mr. Speaker: The question is?

Mr. Runciman: I want to bring to the minister's attention suggestions made by the Progressive Conservative task force on Sunday shopping, which recommended that shopping be allowed the three Sundays before Christmas and that shopping be permitted on Boxing Day. Our party believes those to be sensible solutions to this problem. Will the minister agree to bring forward these amendments in time for this holiday season?

Hon. Mrs. Smith: The member opposite will be glad to know that we are addressing this problem, as I said to the media people yesterday. The report of the three-party select committee that brought in recommendations is being dealt with. That is the report that is being dealt with. It is presently going through the cabinet committee system and will be looked at very shortly, as will the loophole that was brought forward by Cadillac Fairview and that we acknowledged does exist.

1410

Mr. Cureatz: I would like to bring to the minister's attention that in terms of my research there appear to be a number of Liberal back-benchers who indeed are supportive of Sunday shopping in Metro Toronto. They include the member for Don Mills (Mr. Velshi), the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Kanter), the member for Scarborough Centre (Miss Nicholas) and the member for York Mills (Mr. J. B. Nixon). I am wondering if the minister would be so kind as to respond yes or no: is she supportive of those specific Liberal back-benchers who are in favour of Sunday shopping in Metro Toronto or is she against them?

Hon. Mrs. Smith: I would be glad to point out to the member that indeed back-benchers can have their own views and often do have their own views. He will be well aware that I, as a back-bencher in my previous years, was a member of the select committee. He will know, since it was a unanimous report, where I stood at that time on that committee. He may also be well aware that it is now being thoroughly studied by the cabinet committees and those who provide them with legal advice. We will come forward with a decision from the government that he may be sure I will support.

ONTARIO HYDRO

Mr. Charlton: I have a question for the Minister of Energy. The minister has stated publicly his concern about Hydro spending habits and the level of the Hydro debt. In the light of the view of the Ontario Energy Board that Hydro's spending is out of control and its recommendation that Hydro strive to pay down its total debt and reduce future borrowing requirements, is he satisfied with Hydro's response to that recommendation, wherein essentially it said, "We're already doing that"?

Hon. Mr. Wong: I would like to thank the honourable member for asking me such a direct and I think valid question since it has been on many Ontarians' minds in recent weeks and months since the election. The member and the House will be pleased to hear that today I met with the chairman, the president and three of the executive vice-presidents of Ontario Hydro and we specifically looked at the financial data, as opposed to many other areas we might have investigated today.

At the present time, I can assure the House that when we look at the debt picture of Hydro, while the numbers are large, relative to other provinces we are one of the lowest. Looking at the future

outlook for Hydro, it would appear that the debt ratio is on the decline, so I can assure the member that we believe Hydro is running its debt strategy on a sound financial basis.

Mr. Charlton: It would appear the minister has had one meeting with Hydro officials and all of a sudden has changed his view about the problems around Hydro's debt. On the other hand, the Ontario Energy Board, which spent months of cross-examination of Hydro officials and other witnesses, has taken exactly the opposite point of view in its report, saying Hydro's debt and spending habits are out of control.

We also have information that has been out there publicly for some months regarding Hydro's plans to propose the next nuclear plant in this province. Is the minister aware that another Darlington plant in this province will add \$15 billion-plus to Hydro's debt?

Does the minister find that approach acceptable, or is he prepared to tell the House today that there will be no more nuclear plants in this province in his effort to see that Hydro's debt does not increase by two thirds yet again?

Hon. Mr. Wong: There are really three questions there. First, I have met with Hydro on more than just this occasion, and certainly our officials have been in touch with them on a continuing basis.

Second, as the member knows, one of the finest rating services in North America has given Ontario Hydro a triple-A rating.

Third, before we can make any decision on nuclear generation plants, we have to get a long-range supply-and-demand picture based on electricity in the other energy forms. Before we make a proper decision, we have to wait for that decision.

PROVINCIAL AUDITOR

Mr. Harris: In 1985, the Liberal-NDP accord committed the government to changes to broaden the powers of the standing committee on public accounts and the Provincial Auditor. Mr. Archer, the Provincial Auditor, has indicated that he could do his job better if he could issue quarterly rather than annual reports and if the auditor's office were given the right to make special reports whenever it sees fit.

In the absence of half the cabinet, my question to the Treasurer and Deputy Premier, without walls or barriers, is: When is he going to honour his 1985 commitment to broaden the power of the Provincial Auditor?

Given the increase in the size of the government, the tremendous growth in government spending, the current imbalance between the resources of the government and the resources of the opposition parties, when will he bring forward legislation, as he promised, to amend the Audit Act to provide for quarterly reports and special investigations?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Just perusing the report, as it has come to my attention in the last few minutes, it is a very excellent one indeed. The Provincial Auditor, if he were here to speak for himself, would surely say that the funding—

Mr. Wildman: He is.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: There he is.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: He cannot speak, although he is very welcome, and we appreciate his being here.

His funding for the provision of broad service audits of all ministries and many agencies of the government is completely unimpeded and he has the resources he feels he should have.

As for giving more regular reports to the Legislature, I see no objection to that. I think in reading his own references here he talks about the kinds of delays in those matters from the Legislature and from governments in the past, and I hope we can come up with something that is an improvement. As a matter of fact, I think the last improvement was when the Honourable Darcy McKeough was Treasurer of the province; there was quite an extensive revision and, in fact, new legislation. We are still working on that, and I think the results are excellent.

We certainly want to continue with that tradition of improving the accountability of the government of Ontario through the offices of the Provincial Auditor. The answer is, some time soon.

Mr. Harris: Obviously it is not something that has even been discussed or thought about by this government over the last two years. This is the government that recently campaigned that it did what it said it would do. In 1985, this is what the government said it would do. In 1986, this is what the auditor said he required.

I looked at this report—I have not had time to go through it all, but I am sure there are some scandalous things in it. I did have the opportunity to note on page 164 that the amount of money that goes through Management Board of Cabinet—in other words, not through the regular appropriation system—in 1984 was \$267 million; in 1985, probably because some government moved into place, it moved to \$580 million; now it is almost

\$1 billion. This amount of money comes from a government that has apparently no control at all over spending.

One of the vehicles is this particular one. The Treasurer promised it in 1985 in the accord, and we have not heard anything on it since. I would ask the Treasurer again, is he serious about this, and when is he going to comply with the auditor's request and bring in amendments to the Audit Act?

1420

Hon. R. F. Nixon: The honourable member will know that on page 5—and I have actually got to page 7 myself—the auditor says:

"We do, however, acknowledge situations which we believe are indicative of particularly good administration. This report contains a number of such instances. For example:

"The province's expenditure for goods and services amounted to \$1.9 billion in 1987. In a government-wide review of the payments system we found that administrative control over payments was good and that the system, in all material respects, was operating in accordance with government policies and procedures (section 3.3)."

GREENACRES HOME FOR THE AGED

Mr. Beer: I have a question for the Minister of Community and Social Services.

The minister is aware of the concern in my riding of York North, indeed in the whole of York region, regarding the future of Greenacres Home for the Aged, which is currently operated by Metropolitan Toronto. Will the minister indicate to the House what discussions are currently under way regarding the future use of this important facility?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: Greenacres home in York region has pretty close to 400 residents. It is presently maintained and operated by Metro. Metro has been concerned that its residents should receive that kind of service within the boundaries of Metro itself. Our ministry has therefore given Metro approval to build two smaller homes, one in Scarborough and one in Etobicoke, to meet that particular need. We expect that will be completed within the next couple of years.

In the meantime, all the residents of Greenacres will continue to receive the service that they have now. There are ongoing discussions between our ministry, York region and Metro as to the future disposition of Greenacres. The sense we have at the present time is that York region will take it over and use it either completely for a

home for the aged, or partially for a home for the aged, or for outreach services to their elderly community, or for a variety of those reasons. Those discussions go on today, are continuing to go on, and my sense is that there is no particular hitch in those discussions.

Mr. Beer: The minister will be aware that one of the concerns of the workers at Greenacres is in terms of the job situation several years down the road. Will the minister undertake to ensure that in these future discussions which he says are now ongoing, Metro will be asked to give current employees of Greenacres first right of refusal when these two new facilities in Metropolitan Toronto are staffed?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: It is my understanding that the approximately 600 employees at Greenacres come under the bargaining unit of all Metro employees and that it would be a requirement, if they were displaced from their existing jobs, that they would have to be given an opportunity for the first available job for which they were qualified. We have discussed that with Metro, and it is our clear understanding that that opportunity would be made available to them.

With the building of two new homes in Metro, with the maintenance of Greenacres in some form providing some services, the 600 employees could be reasonably sure that their long-term employment would be guaranteed either in Metro or in York region. That has not been finalized yet. These are still employees of Metro, and Metro is still responsible for their long-term employment. As I understand it, York region is prepared to negotiate that long-term settlement with them.

INCINERATOR

Mrs. Grier: I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. He will be relieved to know it does not relate to the Provincial Auditor's report but to a more pressing and urgent matter here in Metropolitan Toronto.

Last March, the minister announced that an energy-from-waste incinerator proposed by Trintek Systems for the south Riverdale area of Toronto would be designated under the Environmental Assessment Act, but the regulation implementing that commitment has not yet been passed by cabinet. This has resulted in very great uncertainty for the members of the community and in very great pressure being exerted by Trintek on all concerned in order to have the regulation weakened. Can the minister assure the House that nothing less than a full environmental

assessment will be required for the Trintek operation?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: The member would be aware that, unlike the other proposals that would be coming forth, the Trintek proposal was put before the government before we had a policy which would require private sector—

Mrs. Grier: Same day.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: No. That application had been made previously. It had been brought to the government's attention previous to that. I am not saying that is going to influence, I just want to get some history into this.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Then why raise it?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: Because I want to put some history into this. The history is, first of all, that proposal was made to the government previous to that policy being announced by the government.

I have indicated in the House in the past and to questions from the member for Riverdale (Mr. Reville) that we would want to have an environmental assessment of that particular proposal, because it is a significant proposal, and that the regulation would be one—and there was an attempt to sit down with the various people who are interested in this particular proposal—that would be satisfactory to the people residing in the area. There was a major effort made in that direction.

I think there was an anticipation that there was some kind of agreement at one time and, subsequent to that, people have at this time said it was not satisfactory to them. The regulation which cabinet will approve will be one that will take all of those factors into consideration, and I want to tell the member that we want to have as strict an environmental regulatory regime as possible in dealing with this particular matter.

Mr. Reville: I have a terribly sick feeling in the pit of my stomach, and I think the citizens in south Riverdale must have it too.

The history of this project is documented in a letter to the minister from Trintek dated November 3, and it talks about a "scoped process," which is some curious jargon which means less than full environmental assessment, I warrant.

Will there or will there not be a full environmental assessment under the Environmental Assessment Act?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: When the member talks about the scoped process, all that refers to—

Mr. Villeneuve: History again.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: It is not history; it is a definition the member has brought to the

attention of the House. When one talks about the scoped process—I listen to members in this Legislative Assembly, including a number of people who are environmentalists, who talk about the delays that take place around Ontario—

Mrs. Grier: The delays are in your ministry.

Mr. B. Rae: Anybody who isn't an environmentalist, stand up right now.

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: No, I am not being unkind—

Mr. Speaker: Disregard the interjections.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: —but many people have expressed concern about the length of time that it takes for the environmental assessment process. Everybody has been attempting to find a method of putting in effect an environmental assessment that can take place in a reasonable period of time, and that is what we are attempting to do.

I share the member for Riverdale's concern that we have an environmental assessment which will take into consideration everything that he would like to see taken into consideration. Simply, and I think he would agree with this, although I cannot speak for him, we would like to do it in a period of time which is effective.

NIAGARA REGIONAL POLICE

Mr. Cureatz: I have a question to the Solicitor General, if I might get her attention for a moment.

In response to the question of my colleague and friend the member for Welland-Thorold (Mr. Swart) last week, she indicated to him that she would not be supportive of a public inquiry into the carryings-on of the Niagara Regional Police force. If she is not supportive of such a public inquiry, would she at least make public the information, report and/or reports that she has or had in her possession so that we might find out the whole story instead of bits and pieces that are coming forward from some of the press in the area?

Hon. Mrs. Smith: Indeed, I suffer from the same problem that the member does of reading incomplete reports and in fact not getting the whole story very clearly in this way. The first report did indeed say that the Niagara Regional Police Commission was going to release its investigation report, and I assumed it was going to do so. In fact, it has not done so and still has it in its own possession.

1430

Mr. Cureatz: The Solicitor General is responsible for the police forces across Ontario. We are

looking to her for some direction and guidance. More specifically, we would like to point out that it appears the Niagara Regional Police force, among other things, has an unusual way of disposing of its confiscated weaponry in terms of its investigations and arrests.

I would like to point out that the Durham Regional Police force disposes of its confiscated weapons in a unique manner, by putting them in the blast furnaces of Lasco Steel. Does the minister support the alleged way in which the Niagara Regional Police force disposes of its confiscated weapons or does the minister support the method by which the Durham Regional Police force disposes of them? Would she not then have a public inquiry so that a policy can be set in regard to such weapons across Ontario?

Hon. Mrs. Smith: First, I would like to be as clear as I was the first day, that I have not yet said we will or will not have an inquiry. I have said from the beginning that there is a proper process to be followed. Namely, I did request the chairman of the police commission to get her chief of police to examine his own report and make up his mind whether or not he felt there were charges to be laid. It is obvious that if charges are to be laid, they should be laid by him, and this decision must be made before we can decide whether to have a public inquiry.

CANCER TREATMENT

Miss Martel: I have a question for the Minister of Health. The minister will be aware that in March 1984 a role determination study that recommended a cancer treatment centre in Sudbury was approved by the Ministry of Health and that since that time all the plans and the functional program put forward by Laurentian Hospital have been approved by the ministry, and in fact, so has funding for that centre. In 1986, both the Premier (Mr. Peterson) and the former Minister of Health personally endorsed the plans in letters to the regional chairman of Sudbury, and additional funding was granted by the ministry to the plan in 1986.

On November 6, 1987, as construction was about to begin, the executive director of the hospital and the oncology department were advised that the project was on hold for "budgetary reasons." I would like to know from the minister why this has happened and when this project is going to start again.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: First, let me begin by saying I appreciate the question from the member for Sudbury East. I have been discussing the needs of the people of Sudbury and I am

committed to the provision of first-class quality cancer-care treatment. I have also discussed this with the member for Sudbury (Mr. Campbell), in whose riding the hospital falls, and we have taken the opportunity to review those plans.

Let me say that I have some concerns about the scope of that facility and the ability to provide it as expeditiously as possible. That is why I asked the ministry to review it, so we can ensure that we can get on with the construction in as expeditious a fashion as possible.

Mr. Laughren: That is truly an outrageous response. There was a clear indication from the Premier and the previous Minister of Health that the centre was to go ahead. As a matter of fact, tenders were let and it is costing that hospital money now because of the shilly-shallying the minister is presently doing. Would the minister not give us a commitment here today that the project will proceed on time, as scheduled, and will not be downsized?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I will give the commitment today to the members from Sudbury on both sides of the House that as soon as the ministry has received a proposal which is within the scope of funding approved by the ministry, I am prepared to see that project go forward. I believe it is essential that we have a cancer treatment facility for the people in Sudbury as soon as possible. The ministry has made that commitment. I give the members my personal commitment, and we are going to ensure that it gets on as expeditiously as possible.

TRANSMISSION LINES

Mr. Runciman: This question is for the Minister of Energy. When it rains, it pours. I have a news release here, dated November 10, from Ontario Hydro, and I will quote.

Interjections.

Mr. Runciman: I will wait until the conversations are over.

I quote here from the minister: "Ontario Hydro will begin work on environmental studies to determine the best location for future transmission facilities west and southwest of London and if these facilities are required to meet growing demand for electricity in the Windsor, Chatham and Sarnia areas to the year 2000 and beyond."

Is the minister willing to take Ontario Hydro's word for the need for these facilities before he has even laid eyes on the demand-supply options study that Hydro has been promising for the last year?

Mr. Laughren: The member for Sudbury (Mr. Campbell) said, "Don't worry, it's going through." That's not what you're saying.

Mr. Speaker: Order, member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren). We are on to another question.

Hon. Mr. Wong: The Ministry of Energy is always reviewing these things with Hydro, but obviously it has to pass the Environmental Assessment Board also; so there are these built-in checks and controls, and that will help us to determine whether the line is truly needed or not.

Mr. Runciman: I have a tough time with that one. This is just another example of how Hydro appears to be having its way with the Liberal government. That party once criticized this utility for being a Goliath out of control, and Hydro is now telling us it needs to put more transmission lines through farmers' fields and people's backyards without giving us any proof whatsoever.

Will the minister exercise his authority over this monster on the loose, to use the words of his own Premier (Mr. Peterson), and put a freeze on its activities until it releases the demand-supply options study?

Hon. Mr. Wong: As indicated in my answer, we do have government systems in place right now. But to ensure that matters such as this and other matters that might concern the public are fully discussed, the government, in the throne speech, indicated that we want to have more public input in order to make Hydro a little more accountable to the new Ontario and to the people in the province of the late 1980s through to the year 2000.

VICTIMS OF CRIME

Mr. Callahan: I have a question for the Attorney General. In today's Toronto Star it was reported that recently the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board denied compensation to the widow of a police officer who was killed, actually stabbed to death, by an ex-psychiatric patient while investigating a break-in in my riding. I have sent over to the Attorney General a copy of section 7 of the act, which seems to spell out the facts that the board is to review in deciding whether compensation will be awarded, and how much. I have also sent over to him a copy of section 25 of the act, which provides that the minister, along with a number of other people, may, on application to the board, ask it to vary its order.

Would the Attorney General review the facts and, if he considers it appropriate, exercise his powers under section 25 of the act?

Hon. Mr. Scott: The honourable member has been good enough to raise this with me before, but the Compensation for Victims of Crime Act,

which was amended last year and which was amended as a result of a number of useful suggestions made by both opposition parties, provides in section 7 that the compensation will include pecuniary loss incurred as a result of death. It looks from the press reports as if the workers' compensation benefits, the insurance and other benefits accruing to this young widow put her in a position, in pecuniary terms, better than she would have been in if she had lived exclusively on her husband's income. That may have been the decision that the board attempted to encapsulate in its judgement.

I am reluctant to outline any proposals that the government may have with respect to this act, and particularly this section, as I read in the same press report that an appeal is being taken.

Mr. Callahan: In light of subsection 7(2) of the act, which provides for damages that may be recovered in common law, and recognizing the fact that recently this government, in amendments to the Family Law Reform Act, provided for greater compensation for people who die in accidents, I would ask the minister perhaps to review it in that light and to determine whether in this instance there should not be some appropriate amendments made in order to avoid having a situation arise where police officers, who protect the society and carry out this very dangerous duty, are denied perhaps the same rights that are awarded very often to a felon who has been injured in the course of a crime.

Hon. Mr. Scott: As the honourable member knows, we are always looking at ways to improve this legislation. I am very glad to have that suggestion and I will be glad to consider it.

1440

NIAGARA REGIONAL POLICE

Mr. Swart: My question is to the Solicitor General. I must say immediately that I do not have a great deal of sympathy with her on her complaint about reading incomplete reports. I might point out that of the Solicitor General's report on the Niagara Regional Police, two pages of a 240-page report were released and her Liberal government has refused to release the rest of it.

My question refers also to the leaked report of the chief as carried in this morning's *Globe and Mail*. My question relates specifically to two sentences in that article: "In September 1986, the report said, two senior representatives of the Ontario Police Commission met with the Niagara Police Commission. One representative warned the Niagara Police Commission members that

they might not be reappointed by the province if they continued creating public controversy at their meetings."

Given the horrendous problems that have destroyed the credibility of the Niagara Regional Police over the last half-decade, why would her ministry threaten the commission in that manner when it is simply carrying out its duty as a reform commission?

Hon. Mrs. Smith: I would like to reassure the member for Welland-Thorold that I would agree with him that such a threat, if any threat were ever made to remove people from a police commission, should not come from the ministry and only should come from those who appoint, not those in the ministry end of things. I have already asked about this and I am inquiring into it. As far as the people I have spoken to in the ministry are concerned, this did not happen, but I am not satisfied and will continue to look into it to see if such a statement was in fact made. If indeed it was, if that person is still with us—and it is quite possible he is not—I will look into it.

Mr. Swart: I am glad to hear that but I must say she is rather slow in her investigation. I have already checked into it and found out that the statement is correct. The minister must realize the ramifications of that kind of statement by her senior officials, which is that the rule they operate by is that you do not create public controversy.

Does the minister not realize that this revelation brings into question the independence and credibility of the two major investigations that her ministry made into the Niagara Regional Police? Perhaps it was not just negligence or oversight that they did not find that cache of weapons although it was there all the time they were doing their investigation. Should that not in itself enforce the demand for the public inquiry requested by the Niagara Police Commission?

Hon. Mrs. Smith: I am assuming that the member for Welland-Thorold is now assuming that the inquiry they want is to be into that particular investigation. In fact, the present investigation they have just completed was done by their own choice by themselves. We await the results of that investigation. They have not yet released it so I cannot comment on whether or not it includes comments on the previous investigation. I await word from them as to whether they are going to lay charges. Until they make that decision, which as we see in today's paper they say will be made in a day or so, we cannot prejudge whether the charges will be laid. As the member well knows, if charges are laid, we

could not do an inquiry concurrently with the charges.

TRANSMISSION LINE

Mr. Sterling: I have a question of the Minister of Energy. The minister now knows that the appeal to the cabinet of Ontario from a joint board hearing regarding the location of a hydro line through the community of Bridlewood in the city of Kanata has been before the cabinet of Ontario for over 10 months. The community association headed by Judith Hunter has requested a meeting with the minister to explain its position. Can he tell me why he will not meet with that group?

Hon. Mr. Wong: That is not true. I would have met with Mrs. Hunter when I was in Ottawa, but I understood from my staff that she was out of town. Second, this cabinet matter, this appeal, is more than just a simple cabinet decision; it has a judicial aspect to it. As a result, so that our thoughts are not biased one way or the other, it was important that I be careful in this matter and I so indicated to her. If she had preferred that I, as minister, met with her, I would have done so.

Mr. Sterling: The Minister of Energy should know that the Minister of Mines (Mr. Conway), the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio), the Minister of Revenue (Mr. Grandmaitre), the Attorney General (Mr. Scott)—perhaps I am wrong about the Attorney General—the former Solicitor General, the member for Kingston and The Islands (Mr. Keyes) and the Premier (Mr. Peterson) have all met with Judith Hunter and this particular group.

Does that mean the cabinet will not be able to make a decision on that? Is that the reason the cabinet has delayed this decision for more than 10 months while the residents of Bridlewood continue to live in hope that this cabinet will once and for all send this matter back to the joint tribunal so that they can get a fair and prudent hearing? Will the minister promise to deal with this matter and give this community a fair hearing?

Hon. Mr. Wong: I can assure the House that this region of the province will certainly get a fair hearing and that the cabinet in due course will make and announce the appropriate decision.

CANCER TREATMENT

Mr. Laughren: I want to go back to the Minister of Health once again on the Sudbury cancer treatment centre. In view of the fact that northeastern Ontario has the highest incidence of

cancer in the province and that plans have already been made for future expansion of that facility, could the minister give me one, single reason why she is now talking about downsizing that project?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: It is very clear that I have made the firm commitment today, as it has been made on previous occasions, that I am concerned about quality in the provision of care. I gave the direction to ministry officials to meet with Laurentian Hospital as expeditiously as they could, so we could get this project off the ground. It is my understanding that the ministry officials will be meeting with hospital staff this week, possibly even as early as tomorrow, so we can get on with the provision of a very badly needed facility, for which I believe the people of Sudbury have waited too long. I am anxious that the results of that meeting tomorrow will produce a plan so we can see a shovel in the ground as quickly as possible.

Miss Martel: There is no doubt we have waited long enough. We have waited too long. I cannot believe the minister can now tell us that, after the project has been approved, all the plans have been approved and the funding for this particular project, they have now been advised to put it on hold for budgetary reasons. I cannot believe it.

When the executive director of the hospital comes in tomorrow, what exactly is the minister going to advise her staff to tell him? Second, can she assure us there will be no downsizing of this project, because the funding and the plans have already been agreed to by the ministry?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: Let me assure the members, as I have assured the member from the Sudbury area on this side of the House as well, that this plan will meet the needs of the people of Sudbury, it will be the plan that was agreed to by the ministry in its scope of proposals when they requested the facility for the Sudbury area and it will respond to the need for first-class, quality cancer care in Sudbury, something to which I am committed and to which this government is committed.

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INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

PENSION BENEFITS AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Mackenzie moved first reading of Bill 30, An Act to amend the Pension Benefits Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Mackenzie: The new section prevents an employer from taking money out of a pension

plan. Section 79 and section 80 of the act currently provide that surplus money can be paid out of a pension plan to an employer with the consent of the Pension Commission of Ontario.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Mackenzie moved first reading of Bill 31, An Act to amend the Employment Standards Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Mackenzie: The purpose of the bill is to establish a public audit board to inquire into the causes of an intended termination of employment of 50 or more employees and the effect of that termination on both individual employees and the community. If the board determines that those effects are of major significance, it will conduct an inquiry to determine whether the intended termination of employment is or is not justified by the economic circumstances. It is to deal with plant closures.

DISABLED PERSONS EMPLOYMENT ACT

Mr. Mackenzie moved first reading of Bill 32, An Act to provide for the Employment of Disabled Persons.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Mackenzie: The purpose of the bill is to provide employment opportunities for disabled persons. The bill requires that employers hire disabled persons to constitute at least three per cent of the employer's work force. The bill permits the minister to vary this percentage requirement in cases where the minister considers another quota to be more suitable.

In addition, the minister may exempt an employer or a class of employers from the operation of this statute. The bill establishes a registrar of employable disabled persons to be maintained by the ministry for the purpose of facilitating efforts by employers to meet the quota established by this bill.

EDUCATION AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Mackenzie moved first reading of Bill 33, An Act to amend the Education Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Mackenzie: The purpose of the bill is to allow boards under the Education Act to provide certain medical and insurance benefits to their retired employees, their spouses and children. The act as now worded allows boards to provide these benefits only to current employees and their families.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Mackenzie moved first reading of Bill 34, An Act to amend the Employment Standards Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Mackenzie: The purpose of the bill is to require an employer to provide a leave of absence to any employee who has been elected to provincial or municipal office so that the employee may be able to carry out the duties of an elected official.

PUBLIC VEHICLES AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Mackenzie moved first reading of Bill 35, An Act to amend the Public Vehicles Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Mackenzie: The bill would prohibit passengers from occupying the part of a bus or streetcar to the immediate right of the driver's seat after the driver has asked them to clear the area. It is intended for safety purposes.

PUBLIC SERVANTS' POLITICAL RIGHTS ACT

Mr. Mackenzie moved first reading of Bill 36, An Act to provide Political Rights for Public Servants.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Mackenzie: This bill, among other things, gives public servants the same political rights that every other worker enjoys.

LABOUR RELATIONS AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Mackenzie moved first reading of Bill 37, An Act to amend the Labour Relations Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Mackenzie: The purpose of the bill is to repeal a provision of the act that prohibits the inclusion of security guards in bargaining units.

LABOUR RELATIONS AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Mackenzie moved first reading of Bill 38, An Act to amend the Labour Relations Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Mackenzie: A section is being added to the act that deals with various situations where there is an attempt to replace union employees or prospective union employees with nonunion employees.

LABOUR RELATIONS AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Mackenzie moved first reading of Bill 39, An Act to amend the Labour Relations Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Mackenzie: The purpose of the bill is to clarify that the Labour Relations Act applies to employees who are engaged in agricultural employment in an industrial or factory setting in Ontario.

LABOUR RELATIONS AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Mackenzie moved first reading of Bill 40, An Act to amend the Labour Relations Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Mackenzie: The purpose of the bill is to prevent the hiring of strikebreakers and to control access to a work premise that is affected by a strike or lockout. The bill prohibits an employer from hiring or using the services of a person to do the work of an employee who is on strike or locked out unless that person is specifically authorized to do so.

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EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Mackenzie moved first reading of Bill 41, An Act to amend the Employment Standards Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Mackenzie: This bill would add three holidays to the definition of "public holiday." They are Easter Monday, the first Monday in August and Boxing Day. It would bring Ontario up to par with some more progressive provinces.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Mackenzie moved first reading of Bill 42, An Act to amend the Employment Standards Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Mackenzie: This bill would add to the vacation time that employees are entitled to in Ontario: two weeks in each year upon the completion of 12 months; three weeks in each year upon the completion of 60 months; four weeks in each year upon the completion of 120 months and five weeks in each year upon the completion of 240 months of employment.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Mackenzie moved first reading of Bill 43, An Act to amend the Employment Standards Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Mackenzie: This bill is to protect employees where persons contract out work or services so that the employees can maintain the seniority, wages, benefits and other rights they had before the work or services were contracted out.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Mackenzie moved first reading of Bill 44, An Act to amend the Employment Standards Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Mackenzie: The purpose of this bill is to reduce the standard work week from 48 to 40 hours in Ontario, bringing us up to par with other provinces and the federal government legislation.

CHILDREN'S LAW REFORM AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Cousens moved first reading of Bill 45, An Act to amend the Children's Law Reform Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Cousens: This bill provides a new mechanism for the resolution of disputes concerning access to children. Where an access order already exists, the court may appoint a mediator. On receiving the mediator's report, the court may vary the order in accordance with the terms agreed to by the parties or the terms recommended by the mediator. The court may draw an adverse inference from a party's unwillingness to co-operate in the mediation with respect to his or her ability to act in the best interests of the child. The court may also order that access to a child be arranged through a supervised access centre established by the Attorney General. The bill also adds the importance of maintaining emotional ties between the child and his or her grandparents to the factors to be considered by a court in determining the best interests of the child.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

INFORMATION AND PRIVACY COMMISSIONER

Hon. Mr. Conway moved resolution 4:
That an humble address be presented to the Lieutenant Governor in Council as follows:

To the Lieutenant Governor in Council:

We, Her Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario, now assembled, request the

appointment of Sidney Bryan Linden as Information and Privacy Commissioner for a term of five years, commencing on a date to be named by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, as provided in section 4 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 1987, S.O. 1987, c. 25; and, that this address be engrossed and presented to the Lieutenant Governor in Council by the Speaker.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Sterling: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I thought it was customary for the government House leader to consult the three parties when there is an agreement that he is not going to go ahead and make some comments with regard to a resolution. I guess I was a little surprised when government resolution 4 carried so quickly. I am quite willing to acknowledge that, but I did have some words to say about Mr. Linden and his appointment as Information and Privacy Commissioner. It is unfortunate we did not hear about this in advance.

Hon. Mr. Conway: I would not in any way wish to deny the member for Carleton an opportunity to address this or any other resolution. It is a debatable motion; there was the opportunity. If the honourable member would like to address himself to government resolution 4, it being a free and open society and a very democratic Legislature, I for one would encourage him to do so.

Mr. Sterling: Mr. Linden, I noticed, was here in the Speaker's gallery, perhaps expecting some remarks. He has gone at this particular time so that some of the import of making those remarks has been lost. Therefore, I will waive and continue on.

NOTICE OF DISSATISFACTION

Mr. Speaker: I wonder if I could advise the members that pursuant to standing order 30 the member for Markham (Mr. Cousens) has given notice of his dissatisfaction with the answer to his question given by the Minister of Government Services (Mr. Patten) and this matter will be debated at 6 p.m.

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE (continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

Mr. Philip: When we adjourned, I was talking of my concerns about Ontario Housing Corp. My

concerns were certainly not in any way lessened by the Provincial Auditor's report today. Over the years, we have called OHC officials before the standing committee on public accounts and brought numerous cases of inappropriate violations of the corporation's field manual procedures regarding public tendering of contracts over \$10,000, and once again we find that the OHC, and indeed a number of the housing authorities, are guilty of this same practice.

It is unfortunate that a crown corporation that is dealing with something so important as housing for people who are less fortunate than the members of this Legislature should be violating its manual of administration, should be violating the tendering process and in effect squandering hundreds of thousands of dollars that should be spent providing adequate housing for the people it is supposed to be serving.

If we look at some of the changes that are taking place on the other hand, rather than leave Ontario Housing, which I have perhaps been somewhat critical of in my throne debate speech yesterday, I would at least like to compliment the Metro Toronto Housing Authority on some of the innovations it seems to have under consideration.

For one thing, over the years since 1977 when the standing committee on administration of justice report came out and recommended a more flexible transfer policy, Ontario Housing and indeed Metro Toronto Housing Authority have always balked at that. We argued in this House that it was simply their way of putting their bureaucratic considerations ahead of the tenants they were serving.

I do notice, however, that there is a program now that is called "You Swap" where tenants exchange units. It is covered in volume 1, number 4 of the Metro Toronto Housing Authority newspaper called Homewards. It is an experimental project, but none the less it is a move in the right direction. It is a very small move compared to the kind of recommendations the justice committee made in our report so many years ago.

1510

One of the things I do notice about the publication that I think has to be complimented is that this publication at least is not simply an apologist for the corporation. Indeed, the publication deals with some substantive issues and reports those instances where the tenants and the community may be in disagreement with the corporation and where there is some concern.

If you look at the publication, it deals with a spotlight placed on security, for example, and

talks about some of the concerns of some of the security systems. After having been somewhat critical of the corporation, I must at least say I think some of the steps that seem to be under way are in the right direction.

I mentioned a minute ago the Provincial Auditor's report. I will not dwell extensively on it, because we will have a great amount of time to do that in the standing committee on public accounts. However, what I think is notable about this particular report is that it is really the first auditor's report that deals with the sins of the Liberal regime where they can no longer blame the Conservative government for its mismanagement, and I think there are at least three areas that will bear some considerable scrutiny.

One is pollution control, others are mental health and rehabilitation of injured workers and, of course, again we deal with the Ontario Housing Corp.

If we look at the environment, the auditor notes that the data filed under the acid rain control program are not independently verified but rather accepted at face value. He points out that more than one quarter of the pollution complaints sampled by the auditor were either not followed up at all or were inadequately followed up, that there is a serious lack of ministry-initiated inspections and that the government has no information on more than half of the corporate polluters that discharge directly into our provincial waterways. Only a minority file toxic tests of their effluent. Most of them fail the test.

It points out that of 50 companies selected for further future examination, two thirds were not being controlled in any way by the government pollution control program and 13 of the remaining 16 under government control measures were in violation of provincial standards but had not been considered for prosecution.

In terms of mental health, we have an even more disastrous kind of situation than we had perhaps envisaged. As someone who sits on the advisory board of Friends and Advocates, I frequently talk to people who have been in mental hospitals and therefore know in a very personal way some of the problems they are experiencing in the community. I have listened to some of the admonitions of this government by the member for Riverdale (Mr. Reville), who is very concerned about that particular issue and has spoken eloquently in the House about it. But what we have is a completely independent, nonpartisan report in the auditor's report, and quite frankly, it is astonishing.

About 25 per cent of the patients would not have to be hospitalized if adequate housing and support facilities were available. We have residential care homes, a poor alternative, and roughly 10 per cent should not receive licence renewals due to noncompliance with fire regulations. Many psychiatric hospital facilities are physically substandard and have problems in areas of patient privacy, washroom facilities, temperature control and ventilation. We have many ex-psychiatric patients, according to the auditor an estimated 2,000 in Metropolitan Toronto alone, who receive room and board in boarding houses; and as the report notes, from a rehabilitation point of view these houses are unsuitable. Home operators were not required to have and in most cases have no particular training or aptitude.

What you have is a situation where seniors are in psychiatric wards of hospitals instead of being adequately placed in chronic care facilities where they can receive more humane treatment and where, in the case of many of the patients, more could be done in order to make these people comfortable. Instead, they are occupying active treatment beds in psychiatric wards.

It is a damnation of the mental health care services in this province. I think every member of this House should read the auditor's report and be very, very concerned about what we are doing in a so-called civilized society to those who, unfortunately, at some time in their life happen to become mentally ill.

We will no doubt be looking at some of the other aspects of the auditor's report in the standing committee on public accounts, including the real estate at the Downsview Workers' Compensation Board facility, but I would like to deal with one last aspect I am particularly concerned about.

My colleagues and I have asked questions of the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Fulton) about his position on Bill 150, which he introduced in the Legislature and which indeed was taken by the Liberals, with the co-operation of the Conservatives, to second reading stage.

Bill 150, together with Bills 151 and 152, which deal with what the minister calls reregulation and which anybody who reads the bill understands is deregulation, will have astronomically terrible effects on the trucking industry in this province. Yet, despite questions from my colleagues and I in the House to the Minister of Transportation, he refuses to answer whether Bill 150 or its substance or contents will be reintro-

duced in some form in this House and carried through.

We know the results of deregulation in the United States. We know that it has had an effect on highway safety. We know that deregulation drove many companies out of business. We know that it meant decentralization or monopolization by certain companies in the transportation industry. We know that the same thing has happened in other countries. Those of us who were on the select committee on highway transportation of goods in 1976 were quite aware of what happened in Australia where competition was virtually eliminated by deregulation.

We know that deregulation will reduce jobs, wages and working conditions for those in the industry. We know that deregulation will hurt small and isolated communities. More particularly, we know that deregulation when coupled with the Mulroney free trade agreement will be absolutely disastrous to the Ontario trucking industry.

What we have is the failure of the Mulroney government to meet its objectives which were clearly stated when it started the negotiations on free trade; namely, to negotiate our access to the American market. What we see is that 43 of the American states are so highly regulated that despite the deregulation by the Interstate Commerce Commission we need a bag of money and a pile of lawyers to get any kind of access to their market. We understand from some documents I have been able to obtain that under the agreement there is what they call a transportation annex.

The transportation annex simply means that any regulation that is in existence at the time of the signing of the free trade agreement stays in place, but we cannot regulate more, we cannot control more and we cannot exclude more. If we come forward with Bill 150 or the substance of Bill 150 and leave the Americans with their present regulatory system, we will see American trucks paying American taxes, driving on roads carrying goods from Toronto to Peterborough to Renfrew and using American drivers who are paying American income tax while our drivers sit unemployed on the sidelines.

As the Toronto Star so aptly put it in an editorial, "Will Peterson Play His Trucking Card?" I am not going to read the whole editorial, but it basically asks: "Mr. Peterson, where do you stand on this? What are you going to do? Are you going to allow our trucking industry to be demolished by the free trade agreement or are you going to use the regulatory powers that you have constitutionally under your authorities not

only to fight free trade but also to protect the Ontario trucking industry?"

With those comments, Mr. Speaker—I took up a considerable amount of time yesterday—I thank you and the members for their attention. Once again, congratulations on your new appointment.

1520

The Deputy Speaker: Would some members like to comment? If not, would other members wish to participate in the debate?

Mr. McCague: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to congratulate you on your ascension to high office. As I told you at lunchtime, you look very elegant in your new frock. I wish you would pass on to the Speaker and the deputy chairman of the committees of the whole House my congratulations also.

It is a pleasure to participate in the throne speech debate. I understand the member for Hamilton East (Mr. Mackenzie) wants to say a few words a little later. I would have thought if he was that anxious to say something, he would have presented fewer bills today.

However, traditionally the speech from the throne outlines the government's agenda for action in the forthcoming session of the Legislature. It is my perception that what we were offered can hardly be called an agenda but rather a rehearsed mishmash of programs and policies which no longer serve this province or inspire its future.

I can agree with the government's assertion that Ontario's economy is fundamentally strong and diversified, and the Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Mr. Elston)—what a great job he has. I had the honour to serve in that position for somewhat over six years with no money. It must be great to have the luxury of all the dollars he has to spread around in all the Liberal ridings in Ontario.

In Simcoe West, this all means that many of our farmers have successfully switched from growing tobacco to growing potatoes, and that of course is a tribute to my colleague the member for Carleton (Mr. Sterling), who persuaded them to do so. It means in the case of the fresh potato market these farmers are willing to take their chances for the best price without the benefit of a marketing board system. We have other farmers who, year after year, continue to plant improved varieties of corn to increase their yield.

A strong economy in Simcoe West means that we have many farms which do not provide a living and the farmer goes to work in town. A strong economy also means that we do have work in our towns. Alliston was chosen as a site for the

Honda plant, not because of government grants but because the company perceived the qualities of hard work and devotion to duty among our people.

The town of Collingwood is weathering the closing of its shipyard thanks to its own long-term policy of attracting a diversified industrial base.

We have numerous examples throughout our area of commercial, industrial and farm success for which we can only thank the strong, entrepreneurial and management skills of our people.

Simcoe West is attracting new people. For the most part, they are young families who see in our area a quality of life and opportunity in which they can hope to grow and prosper.

We are a tolerant people. We have been enriched by folk from many lands. We are a self-reliant people. We like to make our own decisions.

My argument today is with a government which proposes to use its large majority to spend money on programs which are at best ill defined in a throne speech and at worst a poor response to the needs of this province.

We are told we are not immune to global economic pressures and conditions. We have just fought an election which came to centre more and more on the nonissue of free trade. Long before ink was put to paper, long before any person had any knowledge of what would constitute the agreement of our country with the United States, the candidates for the government saw fit to obscure the issues and raise cries of fear in the land. The government party saw fit to paint a picture of economic and cultural domination. The auto workers were told that the auto pact was threatened. "Marketing boards must go," was the message to our farmers. "The arts will lose their identity," went forth to our cultural groups. A litany of doom was chanted to appeal to the instinct for self-preservation which is present in us all. Out of the doom and gloom, like a cavalry coming to the rescue, the government appeared and, aided by an intrigued media, rode to electoral success.

Where are the old-fashioned virtues of hope and faith? Is there any evidence that the government has ever heard of thrift? In the throne speech, the government used the phrase "we must" 23 times. We are told "...we must set new standards of achievement for our children...we must increase the supply of affordable housing." Every "we must" is a cost for the people of Ontario. Every "we must" proceeds a policy

statement so fuzzy and so broad that one is left with the impression of a government careless of the people's money and completely out of touch with the true needs of the province.

We are told "...we must maintain a commitment to develop innovative approaches to assist Ontario farmers." How much room for innovation is there in feeding a cow or planting seed in the ground? Do the farmers really need the mountains of new bulletins and regulations which new programs bring? Is there any real commitment to agriculture and to a healthy and viable farming industry in this province? Do we really need to be told that we must maintain this commitment?

I must submit that agriculture is one example of the ad hoc approach of this government to the challenges and problems of this province. The government is blessed to be in office during a period of unparalleled revenue. Conventional wisdom would indicate that when we are going through a period of good times we should be paying off some of our debt and laying something aside for a rainy day. What does the speech from the throne indicate? Rather than sound financial management, we are offered a multitude of programs, each reacting to a situation rather than taking a new direction or providing leadership.

There is a tremendous increase in the total revenue since 1985, with not a thought of reducing those taxes, or any meaningful reduction of provincial debt. Nearly 11 cents of every dollar is going to service the debt. This is a situation where local ratepayers may have to pick up the tab to maintain essential health, education and municipal services.

This government has seen fit to add many civil servants in the last two years. More ministries have parliamentary assistants and larger staffs. It is interesting to note the size of the staff of the Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet. He must have a lot of additional duties to what was the case three or four years ago. We are being treated to more civil servants and more ministerial staff in the name of better government, or is it simply more help for more spending?

We are told "...government must exercise leadership and set clear goals for our education system." I could not agree more. We must equip our children with the skills, knowledge, creativity and entrepreneurial spirit they will need to meet the challenges of the 21st century. A select committee on education will be formed to develop new initiatives and to involve parents,

teachers, administrators and legislators of all parties.

Just before school opened this past September, I received several near-panic calls from some parents in my constituency. They had just been informed that their children would no longer be carried on school buses, even though they had received this service for more than five years. These are parents whose children attend a private Christian school. These are parents who are content to pay over \$4,000 each year for the education they want for their child. These parents pay without protest the same taxes to the county systems as everyone else.

Picture if you can, Mr. Speaker, a youngster standing at the road ready for school, a satchel of books over one shoulder and a lunch-box in one hand. The big yellow buses from the county systems, which once stopped for him, breeze by continually. Worse, in many instances he is bypassed not only by the board of education buses bound for the local grade school, but also by the board buses bound for the high school. Separate school buses also go by. Not one, but two: one for the separate high school and one for the grade school.

1530

How do you tell this child that he is not eligible for funding to ride the bus because he is going to a private school? In a rural riding like mine the provision of transportation to school is equally as important as the provision of the school. Of course we can say to the private school parents that they can pay a little more and hire their own buses, but then how do we justify to these parents that they are getting anything for their school tax dollars?

I bring this up as an example of the fuzzy direction of the Ministry of Education. I found a consultant in the ministry who, if not directly responsible for, was at least prepared to put forth a rationale for the suspension of bus service to private school children. I hope the minister is listening.

That rationale is that school boards are prohibited from engaging in any activity not specifically provided for by legislation. So much for creativity; indeed, not much can be said for common sense. With this caution, our boards went to their lawyers and were advised that there was a very remote possibility of liability should an accident occur to private school children on their buses. This ended five years of community co-operation. This consultant, this same person who could expound reasons why these children should not be allowed on the bus, was able when

pressed to come up with an equally good rationale for carrying these children. It all boiled down to the perception the board officials wished to take.

These are the people the throne speech would have us believe are going to equip our children with creativity and an entrepreneurial spirit. I suggest that this attitude is not sufficiently innovative and forward-looking to carry us into the 21st century.

Simcoe West has over 700 students presently housed in portable classrooms. The throne speech is promising to reduce the number of students per room. Presumably, smaller classes will require more teachers, more rooms and more money. This is big talk indeed from a government which can give lipservice to funding 60 per cent of school expenses while, in reality, its contribution has fallen to the low 40s.

Perhaps the people of Ontario should be told that the new property tax base to be provided by market value assessment is their only hope for increased educational expenditure, or is this House to be treated to a Minister of Education with the ability to walk on water?

Most of our municipalities are facing waste disposal problems. The South Simcoe Waste Management Association is presently conducting public meetings to help solve these problems for five municipalities in Simcoe West. The Ministry of the Environment appears to hope that talk will make the problems go away. They know all too well that one of these days a new landfill site must be selected. I have already ordered my flak jacket for the explosion that will result in the neighbourhood of that site when it is announced.

Does this ministry not have confidence in its own technical personnel? Is this not but one more example where committees, public meetings and talk ad nauseam are considered a substitute for action by this government? Would not the money spent by these civil servants running all over the province be better spent on research and informed leadership?

When it comes to housing, there is a matter I have discussed with the Ministry of Housing. I would like to have passed on to the minister that I have an elderly friend who lives alone in her own house in one of our villages, Creemore. She tells us there are 73 like her, widows and widowers, living alone and occupying their own homes in that village.

We have a minister who says she cannot find ways to spend some \$50 million. Here is a good place for her to get rid of a little of it. This lady has her own solution for a small part of the

housing problem: building an attractive seniors' complex and making it worth while for these single people to move in. Seventy-three houses would thus be freed up for young families. The village of Creemore has just been turned down again on a well-thought-out proposal for seniors' housing. The reason this time is insufficient infrastructure in the form of sewage and water, another project for which funding is being refused.

In regard to the more affordable, quality housing, the speech from the throne says, "there is a great deal more that we must do to search out innovative and creative solutions." Madam Speaker, I rest my case.

Mr. Chiarelli: The member for Simcoe West (Mr. McCague) would tell us that the throne speech is based on programs which involve excessive spending at a time of great prosperity. I just wonder what type of throne speech would have been forthcoming based on the \$8-billion worth of promises the then Leader of the Opposition made in the course of the last election campaign.

Mr. McCague: To give a Liberal answer to that question, I will check with the leader the next time I see him and get back to the member.

Mr. Mahoney: If members would bear with me, I would appreciate it, because I have to get some of the mould off this speech, I wrote it so long ago. I think it is appropriate that we are dealing with free trade and this particular issue, because I and many of us here on the back benches on this side of the House feel a little like Knute Rockne asking the question, "Now, coach?" I guess "Now, coach?" is here.

Madam Speaker, I too would like to congratulate you for your tremendous appointment. I know how thrilled you are. I think it is also fitting that the last time I had an opportunity to speak, you were also in the chair. I forget when that was; it was a while ago. But it is nice to see you, and I appreciate your leadership in your new position.

It is nice to see the member for Mississauga South (Mrs. Marland) here, because I am going to acknowledge a deed she accomplished on behalf of the city of Mississauga a number of years ago. She, as a councillor, Councillor Margaret Marland, and the mayor of Malton, Councillor Frank McKechnie, were kind enough to work on and design a coat of arms for the city of Mississauga and to present it to city council. The motto on that coat of arms is something that I have always thought was very distinctive and important, and it is, indeed: "Pride in our past, faith in our future." I believe that before we can

fully understand where we are going, we must know where we have been. We must know this as individuals, as members of a family and as members of the community and of this Legislature.

I would like to take just a brief opportunity on a personal note to read from Hansard of June 12, 1984, a couple of quotes. This is a quote from the present Leader of the Opposition (Mr. B. Rae), who at that time was the leader of the third party:

"To know" him "was to know a great fighter, somebody who believed very deeply not only in the cause of trade unionism but also in progressive causes generally."

I then go on in the same day to a quote of the Honourable Russ Ramsay, a favourite son of Sault Ste. Marie and a tremendous friend of mine and of my family. He spoke as the representative from Sault Ste. Marie and said:

"He certainly was the driving force behind our medical clinic, along with John Barker, who was a representative for the United Steelworkers...."

"I rise today," Mr. Ramsay went on to say, "on a personal basis to pay tribute to an old friend and one of our country's truly outstanding citizens."

Sheila Copps, whom we all know as a member of the federal Parliament, followed Mr. Ramsay. Ms. Copps said, "it seems to me the Legislature, as a gesture to this fine man, could do well to use the capitation clinic system which was begun in Sault Ste. Marie as a model for clinics across Ontario."

Then the Honourable Mr. Drea, in his closing comments, said: "His contributions at a crucial time to the people of this province, to Canada and to the United States, through the world trade union movement were very substantial and will be remembered in a great many households for many years to come."

1540

The gentleman they were speaking of was my father, and it was on the day that he passed away. I tell members this because I think it is important that we understand our personal backgrounds and our personal legacies. If he were here in this House, some of the members know he would be sitting right over there. He would probably be sitting right down beside the member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman) and maybe even on the right arm of the Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Not so. He had a lot of sense.

Mr. Mahoney: He had a lot of sense, but I can tell the member that he would likely be there.

It was through that fact and indeed through those diverse opinions, often shared at Sunday

dinner, that I grew to understand democracy and on some Sundays the lack of democracy, depending on the mood he was in. In fact, many of the debates in this House will be tame compared to the debates held in the Mahoney household. It was through a life of having the national director of the United Steelworkers of America as a father that I grew to understand what true opposition really is. In fact, with due respect, what I see in this House so far pales by comparison.

I tell members this again only to stress that if we are to know and understand our future agenda then we must remember and appreciate those in the past who have influenced us, knowingly or otherwise, and those who have represented us in various ways so we can indeed have pride in our past and faith in our future.

Mississauga West is one of the new ridings in Ontario but it is steeped in history. It was represented from 1919—and members should take note of this—to 1959, with one three-year exception, by Thomas L. Kennedy. The Kennedy name is one that is associated with fine historical traditions in Peel and Mississauga. Such traditions are recognized by the names Tomken Road, Kennedy Road and Thomas L. Kennedy Secondary School.

I was interested to find out this morning that the member for Durham East (Mr. Cureatz) is a graduate—at least, I believe he graduated—of T. L. Kennedy school. They must have had a public speaking section in that school which I am sure he would have thrived in. In fact, the honourable member for Durham East did inform me that Mississauga was his home town. I guess the operative word there should be “was.”

The traditions lived on with the election to this House in 1967 of Douglas Kennedy, a nephew of Colonel Tom; and with the 16 years of public service on Mississauga council of Harold Kennedy, another nephew and a close personal friend. He is currently the member for ward 1 in our city.

We have had many years of service in this House representing our community from people like the Kennedys, the Gregorys and the Joneses, but times change. Our past has been glorious in many ways, but the future is indeed exciting and challenging. The traditions, Madam Speaker, the torch if you like, have been passed on to us for safekeeping. Those folks are gone. They have left either their human bodies or their political bodies and it is now up to us, the Offers, the Solas, the Marlands and the Mahoneys to carry on the traditions, and most important, to start new ones for Mississauga.

In 1985 those new traditions began; in 1987, on September 10, they were enhanced and expanded upon; and in November the throne speech set out the plans for our future based on an understanding of and a sensitivity to our past achievements and our future requirements. Mississauga West is pleased to see this government's commitment to education, housing and transportation.

In 1974 we became a city. In 1974 the towns of Streetsville, Port Credit, Cooksville and Mississauga merged, along with the many communities within our boundaries. We were approximately 120,000 people. Today, a short 13 years later, we are pushing 400,000 and heading towards the 750,000 envisioned in our official plan. We grow by in excess of 20,000 new people each year. Our industrial tax base has blossomed in the past dozen years to make our community financially sound and the fiscal responsibility shown by the city administration over the past 10 years has worked to make us a truly great new city with traditions, with pride in our past and faith in our future.

We are no longer a bedroom community, we are now a boardroom community. We are a net importer of jobs.

Mr. Wildman: B-o-r-e-d?

Mr. Mahoney: That is b-o-a-r-d, for those who cannot spell.

We are a net importer of jobs. That is, more people come to work in our city than leave every day. We are a creator of jobs and economic stability for our thousands of families. We are indeed strong. In fact, since 1986 we have had over 1,100 new businesses open and created 15,000 new jobs in our city.

As I mentioned in a statement to this House earlier in the week, we are the Japanese capital of Canada, with 63 Japanese corporations, many of them head offices. But we need to know that the province of Ontario understands our needs. The throne speech addresses those needs in very real terms. We have just fewer than 7,000 businesses, not counting our very major retail component, which takes us up to 13,000 businesses in our community, and we need to know that Ontario understands their needs.

I believe that the free trade initiative does address those needs; it addresses free trade, or so-called free trade. Being a major market of production and consumption, Mississauga West will clearly be impacted by this Mulroney sellout of our country.

Indeed, I have a suggestion for Mr. Mulroney that I think would solve the free trade problem,

and that is that he should fire Mr. Reisman and he should hire Peter Mansbridge and Knowlton Nash to head up a new negotiating team and start over. Peter Mansbridge is a Canadian who understands what it is like to negotiate with the United States and who cares about being a Canadian. I say that somewhat tongue in cheek but also quite seriously, because I believe part of the problem in the free trade deal has indeed been the negotiating team and the authority it has been given by the federal government with what, in my opinion, is not its right to give that authority away.

I would like you to ask yourselves a couple of questions on free trade. Does the United States of America, a country of 250 to 275 million people, really want access to our market? Sure we are attractive, but do they need to sell wine in our country? Do they really care about our auto parts industry? Do they really want to share the market in the agricultural industry? Clearly, to do more business in Canada would be nice, would be profitable and a good deal for Mr. Reagan, but is that the important factor in their agenda?

I suggest it is not. The real area they are interested in is our natural resources. They want our water; they want our forests; they want our oil and our gas; they want our uranium. They want our blood, and Brian Mulroney is giving it away.

This government, through the throne speech and the actions by our Premier (Mr. Peterson), is taking the message to Canadians. We are one of the only voices of reason, of caution, of calm deliberations, and we say to Mr. Mulroney and Mr. Reagan, "What's your hurry?" Mississauga West says, "Hold on, slow down, listen to what we are saying"; and so does this government. We should not sell our children's assets. We should not mortgage their future. Do not leave them a legacy they will never understand.

With 20,000 people coming into our community every year, Mississauga is concerned about many items in the speech.

On education, we have the largest public board in the province and the fastest-growing separate board. I met with them this morning over breakfast, and I know other members of this House met yesterday to discuss many of their problems. If you want to see kids, come to Mississauga, we are very productive in that regard as well. As such, it is vital that we establish new programs in education.

We have a minister, and the minister is here in the House, who I believe understands our needs, who comes from a municipal background and who cares about education and about people.

This government, as promised in the election campaign, will drive for higher standards in education, provide school boards with the resources—and I say that again because that is the key—provide school boards with the resources to reduce class sizes in grades 1 and 2 and increase the use of computers and education software. This government believes, and Mississauga West concurs, that it is vital to turn around the many years of neglect in education, particularly in terms of the years 1975 to 1985.

1550

To turn that neglect around, we must start with early education. We must start, at an early age, to establish new provincial benchmarks for literacy, languages, math, science and social studies. The speech from the throne clearly sets out a nine-point program in this regard, and all week honourable members opposite have been calling that inaction. With respect, that is probably because many of them would have trouble recognizing action if it hit them in the face. I understand it is their job to avoid action and confuse the issues.

Mr. Wildman: No.

Mr. Mahoney: I think it is and I respect that. They are indeed the loyal opposition and will remain so for many years to come.

The speech outlines new provincial benchmarks, more effective ways of measuring student achievement, more information for parents on the progress of their children, a select committee on education and more child care spaces in existing schools and new schools.

It promotes literacy training for special groups and increases public awareness of the cost of illiteracy, all this to go along with our financial commitment to education. That is hardly inactive. That is hardly boring. That is leadership and it has set the agenda for this government. Mississauga West applauds that.

These kids that I speak about have many needs. They have the need to be part of a family. I believe very strongly that we must strengthen the family unit as the basis of our society. To help do that, the speech commits this government to increase the supply of affordable housing through the nonprofit sector.

As a past president of Peel Non-Profit Housing Corp. and a board member for nine years, I think I understand the needs, and as I said a couple of weeks ago in the emergency debate on housing, I understand that this issue, just like education, is a problem because of past neglect.

I am interested to hear the leader of the third party defending the municipalities in areas of the

environment, particularly landfill and waste management. It seems to me his party was never interested in defending them in any areas when it was on this side of the House. It is a little bit like Harold Ballard defending the Russians.

This government will provide more nonprofit housing. We will create and preserve low- and moderately priced housing. I am confident we will look at ways to create more affordable housing within existing housing stock, to use government lands to increase new housing starts, to help young people save to purchase a new home and to work with municipalities—instead of treating them like the enemy—to make the provision of low- and moderately priced housing a central part of the entire planning process.

We can create new partnerships between the different levels of government and the private sector that will not only create housing but also generate economic activity in the private sector.

The economy in Mississauga West is diverse, but it clearly benefits from bricks and mortar. Housing begets economic benefits, which in turn beget prosperity. Helping to solve the most critical social problem of our times not only will create economic benefits to the whole community but also will create new partnerships in the private sector. That again is leadership.

We have clear options. We can do nothing and create antagonism, as the third party has done. We can spend irresponsibly and take over the private sector, as the opposition would have us do. Or we can be responsible and work with our partners. Mississauga West prefers the latter and applauds those initiatives by the government—initiatives in education and housing, initiatives to fund new technology programs, modernize our apprenticeship system, appoint an industrial restructuring commissioner, announce selected centres of entrepreneurship and generally show the private sector that we are indeed a free enterprise government.

Mr. Wildman: Oh.

Mr. Mahoney: I am sorry if I made the honourable member opposite choke, but we are a government that realizes we have a responsibility to deal not only with a progressive, businesslike approach to government but also with a strong social conscience that is not the personal purview of the opposition.

In the area of transportation, I believe the future of transportation to move our citizens lies in a strong commitment to public transport. Mississauga West and the city of Mississauga need that commitment, and I am confident that through the review announced in the throne

speech to ensure the orderly and co-ordinated development of the greater Toronto area, that will be done. We will see a greater emphasis on public transportation for our community. At the same time, we need Highway 407, already committed by the last government, but we need the planned western leg of the 407 as soon as possible.

My colleague the member for York North (Mr. Beer) talked about growth. There is probably not another issue, in a broad sense, that impacts more on our lives, the lives in his community and clearly the lives of my constituents in Mississauga West. Many of the problems I have talked about are due to growth; many of the good things that happened are also due to growth. As a nine-year member of a municipal council representing the fastest-growing area in our city, now part of the Mississauga West riding, I can say that growth is a double-edged sword.

The housing industry has problems, and we must work with the home builders, the Urban Development Institute, the municipalities and the home buyers to increase protection for buyers of new homes. Personally, I would like to see a 10 per cent holdback on closing to be held by the Ontario New Home Warranty Program as an incentive to the home building industry to complete its homes both on time and with better quality than we have seen in the past.

This is the largest single investment a family will make, and I feel it is vital for us to address home protection measures to reduce the stress associated with buying a new home, smooth out the move-in transition period and generally ensure that our families are treated fairly.

Mr. Speaker, congratulations to you, sir, on your appointment to the chair. It is nice to see you here.

While building our communities, we must address the problems of health care, senior citizens and the disabled. I really believe the way one can judge a society is by the way we treat our senior citizens. Mississauga West has a number of seniors' homes which are very successful. Peel Non-Profit Housing Corp. provides first-class facilities at an affordable rate, but we also have private sector homes such as the Ivan Franko Home and Sampaquita Filipino Village as well as a large number of private seniors' buildings in the riding. I believe every member of this House on both sides of the floor is truly committed to providing the best care and the best facilities possible for our parents and our grandparents.

Finally, I want to say that Mississauga West and the entire city of Mississauga will be well served by an open, accessible, caring and proactive government. I look forward to the problem solving that will take place over the next four years and on into the future, remembering my city's motto, "Pride in our past and faith in our future."

The Deputy Speaker: Do some members wish to comment?

Mrs. Marland: I could not let this opportunity pass without first of all acknowledging the fact that I served on the Mississauga city council for seven years with the member who is now representing Mississauga West. I would like to stand in this House today to congratulate him on his response to the throne speech, not on the content but on the presentation.

In so doing, I can certainly understand the comments in that speech, which I think were very well delivered by the member for Mississauga West (Mr. Mahoney), and I can tell from them that the great debates and discussions that he and I had enjoyed for seven years on council will undoubtedly now continue in this House.

The member for Mississauga West was very gracious in acknowledging the past achievements in this great province. The fact that Ontario is the premier province in Canada has nothing to do with anything that could have happened in the last two and a half years but everything to do with what happened in the 42 years preceding that. Obviously there is a reason that Ontario became the jewel in the crown of our great nation, and obviously that reason is the good management of an excellent government throughout many years.

It is significant that the member for Mississauga West commented on the fact that he met with the Peel Board of Education this morning. At this precise moment the Minister of Education (Mr. Ward) is not in the House, but I hope he will take careful note. The necessity for that meeting was the tremendous underfunding versus the tremendous need to meet the growth of the school system in the region of Peel.

The initiatives in education that have been announced by this government are a great concern for those boards of education, namely, the reduction of class size across the province, whereas in Peel we already have an average class size of 25 children.

1600

Mr. Mahoney: I would have been actually shocked if the member for Mississauga South had not replied. I was used to her responding to

my speeches when we served together on city council. I think the point is well taken, and many members in this House have recognized the contributions that have been made by many people in the past. The fact that I referred to the Kennedy family and people like that is because they are obviously very significant.

I would like to add, however, a remark about some of the comments, not personal in any way but in a general sense, that have been directed to this side of the House, particularly and most notably to me and my colleagues in the back benches of this Liberal government, up here where the air is thin—and they have seatbelts on the chairs, I was quite pleased to find when I arrived here.

The comments have been delivered in such a way that they would be taken as advice from honourable members opposite, who seem to have a number of years of experience in this House in dealing with matters. Both the member for Durham East and the member for Algoma have suggested that we should form—they did not use this term—a rat pack of some kind to bite away and nip at the ankles of our cabinet colleagues.

I just want to say, while I have 44, 43 or 42 seconds left, that they do not understand this caucus if they think that is the way we would operate, because we are indeed unified and we are strong. I am confident we will remain that way for the duration of this government. We will do that for one main reason. That reason is that the people leading our government understand the need to allow us to participate, to encourage our involvement and to actively have us working on various committees. They will not attempt to stifle us, because they know they would not be able to. There is too much talent on this side of the House. I can understand how someone who is involved in a Progressive Conservative caucus would feel he would have to be part of a rat pack.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, in the very few minutes that are remaining, I would like to observe the niceties and congratulate you and the other officers we have now in charge of the House, and also to add my congratulations and best wishes to all of the new members who have been elected.

I have no intention, I can assure the member for Mississauga West, of trying to offer advice, but I cannot resist telling him that if he wonders at some of the comments directed at them from this side of the House, imagine what we are feeling when we look at the throne speech.

In the 12 years I have been in this House, I have heard from every government, and this is a

throne speech that is probably even less proactive and progressive than one or two I have heard in the past 12 years, one that certainly has no comparison to the kind of agenda that was set before this government was elected.

This was a rather interesting and strange House when I first entered it, but I entered it at least in a minority government situation, which had not happened in a long time. We had a government which at that time had been in power 30-odd years, and it did not quite know how to handle the increased numbers in the opposition and the fact that the opposition actually had a majority. I guess we did not either, because we did not set out any hard terms and we rolled, issue by issue, with them. As a result, we did not achieve an awful lot, but at least you had the feeling that you had some input into what was going on.

Then we came to the election in 1981, and the Tories swept back in with a large majority in this House. It was a very unsatisfactory time for most members of this House, for most concerned members; I can say, I think, that included members in both of the opposition parties at that time. On many days, you might as well not have sat in this House, because you got nowhere, you had no input into what was going on, you had very little being done in the way of positive legislation in Ontario. Really, we might as well not have been here. It was probably the most frustrating four years I have spent in my life.

We then had the election before this one, where I think everybody was surprised. Certainly we were. I suspect to some extent the Liberals were, but probably not as much as we were in that election, and the Tories obviously were devastated. People did not know what to expect at first, and of course what was worked out was the now famous—or infamous, I guess, depending on where you sit—accord in this Legislature. That accord did set some 22 specific and, I think, rather progressive items. Most of them, with some notable exceptions, were carried out.

It was a rather exciting two years, or less than two years, in this House because you did feel that you were accomplishing something. You did not know what the cost of it was going to be or what price you were going to pay for giving that kind of power to another party that we quite frankly had not expected too much from in the past, but at least the members of the House felt they were involved and felt things were going to happen. And I think that during that period of time in this House things did happen.

Then we went through the last electoral exercise in Ontario, and we have a majority even bigger than the Tory majorities that we used to see in the House. What have we seen since then? Once again, your perceptions will be different depending on where you are sitting, but it feels an awful lot like that four-year period from 1981-85 in this House. The answers we are getting to questions in this House are almost identical to the answers we got from the Tories during that majority period. Also, when we got this throne speech there was none of the thrust of that accord presentation and there certainly was not a feeling that we were into a new progressive period in politics in Ontario.

I want to ask the members in this House—and I guess it is not meant as advice but as an admonition to the members on the other side of the House—to stop and ask themselves for a minute: is that what the people of Ontario wanted? Another Tory government? I see the member nods his head. If that is what he thinks they wanted, fine and dandy. I want to tell him that if he thinks the perception is one that is ours only, he is badly mistaken.

Like some members, I sat in at the forest industry breakfast the other morning, and I found it very interesting that the first comments and needles I got were from an ex-colleague of mine from our area, Eric Cunningham, a former Liberal member. For a number of terms I sat with him in this House.

He said to me, with a smile on his face, “Bob, I get a kick out of watching you people now that it’s all on television, and seeing my members answer the questions exactly the way the Tories did when I was there.”

That was his exact comment at that breakfast, and let me tell you, that is exactly the perception over here. When I see some of the answers we are getting from the Ministry of Labour, if anything it is worse because there is a little bit of preaching to us as well.

Mr. Laughren: Who said that?

Mr. Mackenzie: Eric Cunningham.

I want to say simply that we have obviously not, in this throne speech either, dealt in a way that most of us would appreciate with what I think is the most fundamental issue facing us in Ontario and indeed our entire country, and that is the free trade issue. I say to the member for Mississauga West that it is not good enough to give us the big words, just as that was not good enough for the bottom-line pitch that we got from the Premier during the election campaign.

I am saying that what we need, and what we need desperately, is some clear indication of action that Ontario is going to take—the fact that we are not going to sign or agree to anything that has provincial jurisdiction responsibility. I can say from the trips our committee took to Washington, if that message is clearly sent down there we will see a backing off or we will not see this agreement go through, but I do not have any faith that this government is going to do exactly that. I have not heard anything in the words and the answers to questions we have had on this issue that convinces me that they know where they are going or that they are willing to bite the bullet and say, “No, that bottom line is a bottom line.”

I am disturbed. I am very frankly quite disturbed. We have won very little in that agreement. I do not have time to go over it, but I think you should take a look at it for a minute.

The benefits to this country are theoretical at best. However, if you take a look at the agreement, the United States has obtained numerous concrete benefits that we do not have in this country: a wide-open investment policy; guaranteed access to Canadian energy, maybe the single most serious issue in that agreement; the elimination of the auto pact in all but name; greatly improved areas of access for US wines; guaranteed continued access for US trucking firms; greater access for US poultry, eggs and grains. In addition, we do not have any effective answer to their countervail legislation. They can, in spite of that agreement, still bring an action whenever they feel they have been threatened or that there is an unfair subsidy, and we have not attempted to define subsidies in any way, shape or form.

1610

There are so many things that scare the living bejesus out of me in that agreement. I have to say that all Canadians should be upset at this point in time. I am wondering seriously when we are going to hear from this government that it is prepared to use that bottom line. If it is only going to talk it and say, “That is our position, you do not need to worry about us,” but is not prepared to exercise the authority it has, then it is not doing what it told the people of Ontario it would do.

There are a number of things I would like to cover, things that concern me that are not in that throne speech. I do not see the answer to the fact that a province as wealthy as Ontario still has food banks and soup kitchens and, if anything, they are increasing. When I saw the remarks of

the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) in the paper the other day, I did not see any perception, nor do I see anything in this throne speech, that tells me he understood one of the things we have warned about for years. That is, the threat from plant closures in this province is now catching up to us in terms of what he acknowledges is the new phenomenon of welfare. Those are older workers who are on welfare. There is a situation that should cause concern in all of us.

We have not seen adequate action on housing. I left the figures from my own area in my office, but we have some 1,100 or 1,200 people on the Hamilton-Wentworth Housing Authority waiting list alone. If you look at that waiting list, the tragedy of it is that over 350 of them are above 90 points; in other words, in a desperate situation. There is no answer to that kind of housing issue.

I do not have the time and I recognize it, so I simply want to say we have not dealt with labour issues. We do not see the pension reform issue before us and we still do not have a definite time frame on it. We have not seen an answer to the issue of hours of work. We have not seen answers to many other labour problems that face us. We certainly are not seeing answers to some of the serious safety and health problems in the workplace, and we have any number of cases to bring into this House that are even more startling and worse than what we have been raising in terms of the aircraft plants in the last two or three days, and they will be brought in over the next week. We have some serious problems in terms of health and safety and I see nothing here that gives me any confidence that that is the way this government is working.

Regarding human rights, if any members are dealing with it, it takes three years to get an investigation. If you go to a worker's adviser at the Worker's Compensation Board, do members know what you will be told in Hamilton or in the peninsula?: “It will be six months before we can even sit down and give you an interview and maybe another six or seven months before we commence action.” If new members have not run into that yet, do a little checking very quickly.

I could go on, but I simply do not have the time and for that reason I will bring it to a close, but there are serious problems for workers, for people. Indeed, the future of our province is at stake and this throne speech does not answer the problems. I am afraid that what we have is another Conservative government in Ontario, and I do not think people wanted that when they voted in the last election.

Mr. Harris: I believe the House leader for the government was supposed to suggest at the start of the debate, as is customary, that we would try to limit our remarks to half an hour for each party from here on in. Since that was not done, I will suggest that.

The Deputy Speaker: Mr. Harris moves that the remaining—

Mr. Harris: I do not think I have to move it. It is an understanding. There is no objection to that understanding?

The Deputy Speaker: Is there unanimous consent in that case?

Agreed to.

Mr. Harris: I believe that was the intent. I better get started because I do not know whether I am going to have time to get to the throne speech.

I do have a few comments to make. Let me first of all thank my party for giving me the opportunity to speak today on this throne speech debate and to wrap up for our party before we have what could be, if the whip for the government party is not doing his job, a historic day. I understand where our party is going to go on this vote and where the opposition party is going as well. I am not sure where the government is going. I did not hear enough of them speak.

Let me start by congratulating the mover and the seconder of the motion for adoption of this throne speech, although it is a motion that neither I nor my party can support. But I do congratulate them for their election to this House and for their role in the traditions of this House. Through them, I congratulate all the members who were newly elected on September 10, particularly those from the Liberal Party and the New Democratic Party. It is a little tougher for me to congratulate those in my own caucus at this time, as members might appreciate—newly elected I mean.

I congratulate Mr. Speaker on his re-election as Speaker of this Legislature, and while we are on the niceties, I will go a step further and congratulate His Honour the Lieutenant Governor for the fine manner in which he read the speech we are discussing. That too is a tradition that I cherish, as I do many of the traditions that we have in this chamber and that reflect on our parliamentary democracy.

I regret that I had to point out the unfortunate break with tradition this year on the introduction of Bill 1. I congratulate Mr. Speaker who, in making his ruling on the objection I had, I believe made the correct ruling, that it is the right of the

government to break with tradition if it so wants to do.

In making that ruling, however, the Speaker pointed out that while it is the government's right, it is something that the government ought not to do lightly and, correctly as well I thought, he suggested to the government that it would be well advised on this issue and on similar traditions not to do it again, particularly when it is as important a tradition as Bill 1 and what that represents for the supremacy of this Legislature in dealing with the affairs of the province.

As is appropriate as well in this first throne speech debate following an election, I would like to thank the people of Nipissing who were kind enough to return me to the Ontario Legislature. Let me also congratulate the other candidates in Nipissing who ran excellent campaigns and who, in my opinion, campaigned fairly, honestly and hard. That is the end of the niceties. Let me get into some of the other things that are appropriate to mention at this time.

I mentioned the campaign and it is appropriate in tradition that we comment briefly on it and refer to it in this first throne speech following it. I will start by looking at a quote from the member for St. Catharines (Mr. Bradley) and suggest, as the candidates in Nipissing campaigned fairly and properly, perhaps this quote from May 12, 1981, will reflect on what I feel about some of the central campaign that the government party put on.

The member for St. Catharines says—remember now, this is May 12, 1981: "It was also stated during the campaign that it would be advantageous to elect a government member. If we were to take this to its full extent, we would have 125 government members and no opposition. What we have to be careful of now, what we in the opposition have to be ever vigilant for, is the fact that the government might well now attempt to punish those who did not elect Progressive Conservative members or unduly reward those who did. We in the official opposition will be watching very carefully to see that they do not conduct this kind of sleazy politics in this province."

1620

I do not know whether that was appropriate on May 12, 1981, but it does give members some of the thinking of some of the members of the cabinet of this government. Knowing from his reply to the throne speech on May 12, 1981, that was the way some of those front-bench members think and reflecting on the recent campaign we just went through, where it was pointed out,

certainly in the riding of Nipissing in the central campaign, that, one, David Peterson would be Premier when this was over and, two, Nipissing had to elect somebody on the Peterson team so that they could be a part of that government—the member for St. Catharines-Brock (Mr. Dietsch) should not shake his head, because I will get him the quotes and the literature if he likes.

That was certainly part of the campaign. It is one area where it was used, in Nipissing, and it was totally rejected by the people. It is one I reject and one I think all honourable members of the Legislature would want to object to. It is certainly something that I, in my first campaign in 1981, never used and never referred to, and it is the type of campaign that ought to be rejected.

Interjection.

Mr. Harris: Yes, he did, and it was rejected out of hand by those of us in all three parties.

I point that out for two reasons: one, just to let members know I read some of this stuff; and two, knowing the thinking of the member for St. Catharines-Brock—and I doubt it has changed much—we will indeed be watching.

In looking through some of the Hansards, I thought I would refer briefly to some comments of the now Minister of Mines, the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway) on April 20, 1982. This would be the next year's wrapup to the throne speech by those who are now members of the government.

I do not want to go through a lot of that speech. In much of the speech, he derided many of the contributions of the members who had spoken previously in the throne speech debate, something I would not do. Many of them at that time were relatively new members, and I thought the comments that were made were inappropriate. I do not want to do that, as I think that is a little unfair.

But I do want to mention one aspect, and it is good that the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) is here. Is it Brant-Oxford now, no more Norfolk?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Brant-Haldimand.

Mr. Harris: Is that the new riding? He is in this quote as well. It is April 20, 1982. Where is the current House leader from? Did his riding change, Renfrew North? I think it is Renfrew North.

"Quite frankly, on that occasion I was distressed as well to have noted that we have now got to the situation where, while very few people come to the throne speech debates, those members who come to read written speeches avail themselves of what I think is a rather unparliamentary photo opportunity. The half

dozen members who are here gather around the honourable member reading a speech so that a photograph might be taken, undoubtedly to send back to the local trombones so that perhaps a somewhat more favourable impression of the milieu in which the great oration was made—"

At that point he was cut off by the now Treasurer who said, "Misleading, that is what it is; misleading advertising."

I have watched much of this debate in my place and have tried to be here as much as I could to hear the back-bench members of the government give their written contributions to this assembly. As I was reading through the comments made by the member for Renfrew North, I could not help but think that really not very much has changed in this chamber. The faces are different and the party mimicking these comments that are dreamed up by \$2.7 million of government research—

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Same old crap.

Mr. Harris: —is the same old crap. Is that what the member for Brant-Haldimand indicated? I think that is unfortunate.

I mentioned that in some of the speeches and debates I heard—some of which, I admit, I watched from my office, thanks to the \$85 billion worth of new TV equipment we have, or however much it is—a number of the back-bench Liberals commented on the lack of opportunity to speak and to enter into this debate. Some even criticized the opposition members for speaking out and for speaking too long.

I would like to point out that the mover and the seconder of the speech, traditionally from the government back benches, had all day to speak. They came up with about 15 minutes worth of written stuff and, in fact, the House adjourned an hour and a half early on the day that was set aside for the two back-bench Liberal stars to show their stuff. I guess they did not need the two hours or the two and a half hours that were set aside for them.

Then I heard others criticizing some of the opposition members. I heard it on two or three occasions. In fact, the member for Nepean (Mr. Daigeler) got up and criticized the member for Durham East who sat through some of these debates with me. The member said: "You took all my time. I hope you feel good about it. You are an experienced member. I do not even get a chance to speak."

The member should analyse how this place works. The standing orders say there will be a minimum of eight days on the throne speech. If the government in its wisdom wants to stifle the back-bench members so they cannot get an

opportunity to speak, particularly if it sounds like some of the speeches are a little anti-Meech Lake, a little anti-free trade or a little anti some of the frontline cabinet positions, then the government cuts it off and says: "That is it. That is all. We are not going to let you speak."

We would be delighted to go on for another two, three or four days in this debate. It was not the official opposition and it was not my party that said "Let's cut them off," it was their own government, their own people, their own House leader and their own Premier who said: "That is enough. I do not want to hear any more from the back benches." That is why they did not get an opportunity to speak.

I want to refer briefly to the Leader of the Opposition and the remarks he made in his reply. I will not have time to refer to everybody, but he had some comments I want to discuss just briefly. One that I found very interesting was his comment to do with universal sickness and accident insurance, "Here we have a government that is still not prepared to even contemplate or mention the words."

That was in the context I mentioned earlier, the incredible differences in our society in what happens to people when they are injured at work, what happens to people when they are injured in a car and what happens to people when they are injured at home. I do not know whether it is Progressive Conservative to comment on this, but I thought the Leader of the Opposition made some pretty good points. I suggest it is something that should be looked at, particularly in view of the comments over the last couple of years that have been coming from the Workers' Compensation Board and how it appears not to be spending money wisely and not serving the employers or the employees very well.

The Leader of the Opposition goes on to say "It is an idea that makes the same kind of sense as workers' compensation itself did when a revolutionary Conservative government brought it in in 1915." That is the last year on which the member has ever complimented a Conservative government, I take it. I suggest that it may be time we looked at where somebody gets hurt.

Most of us here and most of the newly elected members will quickly find out they spend a lot of time dealing with people who for one reason or another are not able to function or not able to work. We go through the workers' compensation system. I do not know how many millions—indeed maybe it is billions—of dollars we spend determining whether this person is to get benefits from the Workers' Compensation Board or not.

If not, then we give him welfare after having spent \$1 billion. It just does not make sense to me any more that we go through this. We go through medical reports on one side, then on the other side, then hearings, then appeals and then lawyers.

1630

It may be that it was a radical government in 1915 that brought in the WCB and maybe I am radical for suggesting it: I do not know whether it would work but I do suggest that maybe it is time we looked at unemployment insurance, at the WCB, at the Canada pension disability, at welfare and at whether it is not time for an efficient delivery of—

An hon. member: As long as you identify the source.

Mr. Harris: I have given the member a fair bit of credit while he was out.

Perhaps we could save billions and billions of dollars in administering these programs, in paying all the professionals, and get more money into the hands of those who need it.

I am going to run out of time but the member for York South (Mr. B. Rae) had a number of points everybody will want to comment on.

He talked about, "Does the House remember Pierre Trudeau?" He said: "I do not know whether he is now regarded as a millstone, or what his status is now in the provincial Liberal Party. Do the members remember Pierre Trudeau in Timmins, Ontario, in the election of 1974 where he talked about wage and price controls? He said, 'never.' He made fun of Robert Stanfield and said: 'What are they going to do with the prices of things?'" Blah, blah; well, we know the story.

I thought it was appropriate that it be brought up at that time in the member's speech. I agree that the point of all this is that the Premier and this government cannot be trusted. We have now seen that clearly, so everybody ought to be able to understand it.

They campaigned as well on, "We did what we said we would do." I do not have time to go through the old throne speeches and the old campaigns, the \$100 tax credit in the north that the Treasurer ignored for a number of years and the promised action on higher gas prices. I mention these because I am going to have trouble getting to all the northern issues.

In the 1987 throne speech we see the same charade. I agree that this government is excellent on press releases, excellent on convincing people it is doing things that in fact it is really not doing. They are excellent at saying they will do things

and then they do not deliver. Trudeau was good at that too. I guess I am one of those who believes that it is a disgrace what he did to this country and I think it is important we do not let the same thing happen here in Ontario.

There were a few other comments. I did not agree with everything in the comments of the member for York South but there were a few I did. I enjoyed his speech and I have absolutely no doubt that he believes 100 per cent in what he said, which is different perhaps from what we hear from the government.

I want to comment briefly as well on the comments that were made by the member for Etobicoke-Humber (Mr. Henderson). I do so because his was probably one of the only speeches that the \$2.7 million in research money that those guys grabbed did not write. I do not think he would have let them write it. It was a well-thought-out speech, I thought, as it pertained to free trade and Meech Lake.

I am going to run out of time. I had a number of notes that I thought we ought to refer to but I will instead suggest that all members, if they did not hear those remarks, ought to read them. They were well thought out. They were well presented. They were independent. I believe they brought intelligence to two very important issues: intelligence, not emotion, not what somebody else thinks they should be, not what will politically get us elected.

I guess if anything bothers me about free trade in particular, it is the stance of the Premier. The election is over, I thought. I understand why he did and said all the things he said to get elected. I understand that. I am a politician. It worked and it worked very well, but now we are faced with doing what is the right thing for this country and for this province.

I wish I had more time to comment on the remarks the member for Etobicoke-Humber made but I encourage all members to read the remarks in Hansard. Let me say that I thought I heard more reasoned arguments on free trade than I have heard from all the federal ministers, from the Premier, from the Prime Minister, from all the high-priced experts and from all the business people.

Let me comment too on one aspect of it that I have heard and I congratulate the member for it. There was one aspect. My colleague the member for Carleton in his remarks in this throne speech debate referred to it as well. He referred to the dispute mechanism. I am trying to find the part that was in the speech. When the member for Carleton referred to it in his speech, there was a

lot of heckling and a lot of jeering from the back-bench government party members. Several of the government party members laughed at the suggestion that was being put forward.

I thought the member for Etobicoke-Humber made the point very well, as did the member for Carleton. What country would be willing to give a foreign state an equal voice in overriding the laws of its own legislative process? Would we? The member for Carleton said no, of course we would not. Of course the United States should not. That is why the compromise that was worked out is not giving control of American politics, of American decisions to Canada. It was a compromise that had to be worked out.

I guess all I am going to have time to do today is to suggest that those remarks are well worth reading.

Let me comment briefly on free trade as it is an important part apparently of this speech. Let me first of all, after having complimented the member for York South—is it York South? I always thought it was.

Mr. B. Rae: Still is.

Mr. Harris: And still is.

Free trade is where I not only start to have some difficulty with the member for York South, but I also have difficulty with Broadbent and with Bob White. I understand the campaign and I understand positions in the campaign, but I think you really have to put into context where these people are coming from. First, they are socialists. Second, they do not want free enterprise to work. Anything that strengthens our Canadian and our Ontario economy through free enterprise lessens the appeal of socialism. I think you have to understand the political agenda all these comments come from.

The Premier on the other hand I thought should know better, but as I mentioned, perhaps he still thinks there is a campaign on. To me, nothing else explains his attitude. I do not believe his attitude is serving Ontario or Canada well, nor do I think that in the long run it will serve him well.

While I am on this, the throne speech says on free trade something that just boggled my mind. Listen to these four things. Here is what it says, that “we have given up far more than we have gained.” It “does not achieve the federal government’s stated goal of security of access to US markets. It does not provide a means of shielding Canadian exporters from restrictive US trade practices. The agreement contains concessions that will”—not “might”—“seriously compromise Canada’s sovereign ability to shape its own political and economic agenda.”

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I disagree with all four of those but I assume the Premier believes them. He wrote them, so if he believes them, what is the debate? What is the argument? Why is he sitting on the fence on this? For the life of me I cannot understand how you can make those four statements and then say: "Well, we have got to look at the final text. We have got to look at this. I know I said I'd veto it, but I'm not sure I should." That really is a contradiction that is unacceptable to me; it is unexplainable to me. I understand where the Broadbents and the Raes and the Whites are coming from and I put it into context, but I do not understand where the Premier is coming from.

What did we get in free trade? All tariffs will be gone in 10 years; a huge adjustment period as well for those industries that may have to adjust. Their laws stay the same; our laws stay the same. Nobody gives up any sovereignty there—who the heck expected them to?—but we gained an impartial review on the application of those laws. They gained an impartial review of our laws and their application, and how we apply them. We still have the right to pass all we want and we gained that in their system.

That has been the problem. It has been the political interpretation of those US trade laws that in my view has been the problem. With this mechanism I do not think we would have had the softwood lumber situation. I do not think we would have had the shakes and shingles situation. But now the disputes do not go to the American courts to be reviewed or interpreted. They go to an independent review board on which we have an equal voice. I say that is a huge gain.

The auto pact: interestingly enough, John Crispo says the auto pact is intact; it is exactly the same. He says that not only do we get to keep the auto pact but we in fact get what he calls auto pact plus. So the auto pact is intact plus; and the plus, of course, is the foreign car makers, the 50 per cent content that will have to be—albeit it is North America-wide. Well, surely that is fair. That is the way it is now. We are competing very well under those rules right now.

We get servicing. If you cannot provide after-sale service, it is pretty difficult to sell. It is a major, major breakthrough in gaining access to the American market.

Because I am running out of time, let me go quickly to a few things that we did not give up. We did not give up everything the doomers said we would; we did not. We did not give up culture; we did not give up marketing boards; we

did not give up regional development; we did not give up social security. Even the brewing industry—I do not know how we defend that. I mean, if the Treasurer is able to defend that one against the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, he is doing well, but I do not know how. But even that we did not give up. Those were some of the things everybody is so—

An hon. member: Canadian sovereignty.

Mr. Harris: Well, let us talk a little bit about sovereignty. Did we give up sovereignty? What is our sovereignty? I guess to me, if you are economically strong, if you are able to function in the world, the stronger you are economically, the more you have an opportunity to exert, if you like, your own sovereignty. That is the economic opportunity, and without that economic strength I do not know what chance we have to maintain our sovereignty.

Well, I hardly got into the speech but let me say that we are disappointed with this speech from the throne. I have commended to you, Mr. Speaker, some of the comments from a number of the other members. I wonder how many, other than having listened to it on the day it was read—

The Deputy Speaker: The member's time is up.

Mr. Harris: No, I think that was one of the informal agreements and I am wrapping up.

How many actually read the throne speech after the time they heard it read that day? In our party we will be opposed, not surprisingly, to this throne speech. We will be voting against it today. I assume, I am quite certain that the official opposition will be opposing this motion today and if enough of the back-bench members have been listening to the debate, perhaps this might be another historic day. Who knows?

Mr. B. Rae: Off your feet. Come on.

Mr. Harris: Listen, I have got another 15 minutes or half an hour. If the members would like me to carry on, I would be delighted to do that.

Mr. Brandt: I would like him to carry on.

Mr. Harris: Thank you very much to my party and to you, Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity today.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: May I start by congratulating you, Deputy Speaker, on your election and your position? I know you will do well. I would like to congratulate as well the Speaker and the Deputy Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House. I am sure they will serve the members of the Legislature well; and if they do not, we certainly will do our best to remind them.

I also want to congratulate the new members of the Legislature. It is going to be very difficult for many of us to get to know the new members quickly since there are so many. I am sure this is not a problem the Treasurer will have; he knows all his back-benchers extremely well.

There are three new members I want to mention in particular, our three new members who have already made a name for themselves. The new member for Sudbury East (Miss Martel) has, I think, made Sudbury proud already. Our new member for Rainy River (Mr. Hampton) and our new member for Cambridge (Mr. Farnan) have already spoken several times during question period and a couple of them have contributed during the throne speech debate. I know they will serve not only their constituents but the people of this province very well.

I do not see my new colleague the member for Windsor-Walkerville (Mr. M. C. Ray) here but I also want to congratulate him. I am sure he will enjoy the next four years serving the people of Windsor-Walkerville. Now, with the new pension rules, his pension will be vested after two years and then he can wait a number of years to collect the credits he will get after four years. In any case, I look forward to working with the new member for Windsor-Walkerville for four years only. That is the only concession.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: And then you're going, eh?

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I am coming back but he is not coming back. If one wants to take a look at the results in my home community and in our region, we did so well as a party that the former member for Essex North, the renamed riding of Essex-Kent, Pat Hayes, has taken a sabbatical but he will be back here. I think we can look forward to some other changes in that region of the province as well. He did extremely well. He scared the...out of the member for Essex-Kent (Mr. McGuigan).

I want to make a couple of comments about the role of our party and the other opposition party, but in particular about ours as the official opposition. We may have been diminished in numbers but I want to make sure the government and the people of this province understand that we take our role very seriously. We intend to hold these 95 Liberals accountable for the promises they made in the election and to good government in Ontario. That is our job and with 19 members we can do it very well.

I want also to point out that there are already signs this government is being somewhat aloof, complacent; arrogant is probably the word I was

looking for. Looking at this afternoon, it took quite some time to even get a member of the cabinet to come in to listen to the throne speech debate. When my leader responded, the Premier certainly was not present for official responses. It was very reminiscent of 1981 to 1985, when we used to have windups for speeches and kick-off speeches for budgets and throne speech debates where the then Premier, William Davis, tended to stay out of the Legislature. The official opposition of the day used to kick and scream and so did we as the third party. We are already seeing that happen with this government, where the Premier thinks it is beneath him to come into the Legislature and listen to the representatives of the people of this province.

If they continue to go that route, the people of this province are not silly; they will reward the Liberal Party in the same way they rewarded an arrogant Conservative Party just a couple of years ago and again on September 10.

1650

I also want to make sure that people understand what is happening around this place. We are going to be adjourning on December 17. We will have had a throne speech with very little in the way of new initiatives, and we will have had a little bit of legislation but nothing of any significance that will be dealt with, and nothing new in the Legislature. The government proposes that we not come back until the week after the March break for the students. That will mean that while the free trade debate is taking place across our nation and while other issues need to be dealt with—issues that are important, like the environment, car insurance and education, things that the government felt were so important that we had to have a provincial election—we will not even be in session, because the government says we need a break.

Our party has gone on record saying that we do not want that break. We think there should be a short Christmas break and we should be back here debating the issues in the Legislature so that the opposition can hold them accountable, and so we can deal specifically with the free trade issue and hold the Premier accountable for some of the promises he made during the recent election.

If members want to look, as many speakers have over the last couple of weeks during the throne speech debate, there were not many new initiatives in this throne speech. There are a few new select committees. There are few referrals to committees. There is really nothing new on housing. There is nothing new on pensions, very little on child care and the same old approach to

occupational health and safety. We certainly saw that very clearly in questions that have been asked in the last few days on McDonnell Douglas by my leader. It is the same old approach to insurance and an inadequate approach to conflict of interest.

One could very easily make the point that this government's arrogance really got off to a quick start when they reappointed the member for Cochrane North (Mr. Fontaine) to the cabinet after a committee of this Legislature clearly indicated that member of the Legislature was in conflict. Without even having conflict-of-interest legislation passed, they go ahead and reappoint the member for Cochrane North to the cabinet.

We have delays on pay equity, in the proclamation of that bill. We have real problems that are confronting the people of this province in the environmental field, the health care field, pensions, education, jobs and free trade. I want to just touch on a few of those.

I was Health critic for this party for a few years. It was a continuing frustration to myself—and I certainly think it is to many of the health care professionals—that there is nothing that has fundamentally changed in our health care system for many years. We have health insurance that came in in the late 1960s and early 1970s, but we really do not have a vision of medicare that was put forward by Tommy Douglas many years ago. We still have a system that is totally and completely dominated by the doctors and by institutions and takes up the vast majority of our health care budget.

We have things like community health centres and health service organizations which everybody says are cost-efficient and are the direction that our health care system should be going. We have Health minister after Health minister who endorse HSOs and CHCs, but we get nowhere with them, because the bureaucracy still continues to see those as not integral parts of our health care system. Therefore, there has been very little in terms of expansion.

I can use my home community of Windsor as an example. We have four hospitals and we have four hospital boards. We have hospitals that are competing with one another and very little, if any, accountability of those hospital boards to the people in the community. It can take one month to find out from one's local hospital how one gets on a hospital board, and it is very difficult for people to get on a hospital board. Most hospital boards in this province do not

reflect the community in their makeup whatsoever.

The only time the hospitals in my home community have been able to get together and take one position was when I publicly said we should have one hospital board and it should be publicly elected. All the chairmen in the hospital boards in the Windsor community got together and wrote a letter to the editor condemning me. Since I have been a member, that is the only time I remember when they agreed on something.

In between, they fight for computerized axial tomography scanners and for other high-tech health care, and they do not have a comprehensive approach to health care. There is this competition that exists among hospitals in communities the size of Windsor, whereas if we had one hospital board, we could properly plan our health care system. We could rationalize our health care system and, I believe, provide better health care at a more efficient rate of cost for the taxpayers of this province.

There are regions in our province that simply do not have the same access to health care as places like Toronto, London, Hamilton and Ottawa—teaching hospital centres. Northern Ontario is obviously a glaring example, but I would point out very clearly that places like Windsor and many other communities that are not teaching hospital areas have extreme problems with getting adequate numbers of speech pathologists and physiotherapists and access to some of the high-tech medicine, which we have to try to balance with the community approach and the health promotion approach.

Our family very recently went through something where my dad had a very serious heart attack. I would say the Metropolitan General Hospital took very good care of him, but the reality of the situation is that there is better treatment available in other communities across the province. There would be better services available in London, because it has a teaching hospital. One has to question whether the same access exists for all the people of our province and whether, if they cannot get access to that quality health care, lives are in fact put at risk because of the community they live in.

I think it is something the Ministry of Health is going to have to come to grips with. Health transportation in the north has been looked at and some assistance has been provided, but if one wants to count the number of people who are travelling back and forth from communities like mine to London every day, I think an argument could be made that we are also going to have to

start looking at proper assistance to the teaching hospital areas so that everyone can get access to that quality health care.

I obviously cannot go through a response to a throne speech without making some comment about health care for our seniors. During the minority government, I think we passed substantial amendments to the Nursing Homes Act as part of the accord, the agreement that had been struck by our party and the minority Liberal government at the time. We now have some good sections of the Nursing Homes Act and I know the regulations are now being worked on, but the fact of the matter is that nothing has changed in terms of enforcement of the Nursing Homes Act in this province.

The Premier said during the election that we had the best government in the world. We can have the best Nursing Homes Act in the entire world, but if the government is not committed to enforcing that act, then it is an absolutely meaningless achievement that a bunch of legislators have accomplished together by sitting in a committee room and will have no direct impact on the residents in the nursing homes of this province at all.

I am absolutely amazed that after a bill of rights was passed for nursing home residents, nobody in the Ministry of Health has bothered to communicate the fact that there is a bill of rights that can be enforced by residents and their families in the nursing homes. There has been no effort to try to communicate with nursing home residents and the relatives of those residents so that they know of their new rights that have been established in the statute. We have a report that was put together on advocacy, but nothing at this point has been achieved by the government to have advocacy in this province or to introduce legislation based on the report from Father Sean O'Sullivan.

I do not believe there are going to be those kinds of reforms unless communities like Concerned Friends of Ontario Citizens in Care Facilities and opposition parties like ours push this government into making those reforms, because I do not think this government is fundamentally interested in making those changes to our health care system or to the nursing home system.

In addition to being House leader for our party, I am now critic in the area of pensions, and I certainly admit I have a lot to learn. Up to this point, the pension plan I knew best was the pension plan that we as members of the Legislature participate in, but I am beginning to

learn what the difficulties are for other working men and women in this province.

Three million working people in this province have no private pension plan whatsoever; 60 per cent of the men who work do not have a pension plan and 70 per cent of the women who work do not have a pension plan. Surely, in 1987 it seems a little bit unfair that 25,000 nursing home workers are not able to access a pension plan in Ontario.

1700

We certainly need to have the ability for people to take early retirement if they want to take early retirement. That financial option should be available. It should not be a matter of calculating your pension and deciding whether you can afford to retire. Early retirement should be an option that is available to the worker and the only way that is going to happen is with substantial reforms taking place here in Ontario.

There are examples that were used during the election but I am going to give the members an example again that refers to my father because he was in the auto industry for many years. He worked at Ford Motor Co. Ford Motor Co. picked up and moved out of Windsor to Oakville back in the 1950s, so he lost all his pension credits. He worked at Chrysler Canada. Many people forget that Chrysler Canada almost went bankrupt in the 1950s and he lost his pension credits. So now he has 29 years in at an auto company and cannot afford to retire until he gets his 30 years' pension credits because it makes that much of a difference.

You have an older worker who has not particularly enjoyed working at the plant where he works. At Champion Spark Plug, where he worked, there are 200 people or more on layoff who are collecting either unemployment insurance or welfare benefits. The insanity of it is that all someone has to do is properly top up those kinds of pensions so somebody can afford to retire with decent credits, with a decent pension, retire with dignity and enjoy retirement, yet the system does not allow for that. Instead, we pay hundreds of thousands of dollars, millions of dollars, billions of dollars for unemployment insurance. We pay welfare benefits when we could in some small way alleviate that problem by having decent pensions for people so they could take early retirement and take advantage of retirement.

My leader and my party suggested during the last provincial election that there should be an Ontario pension plan that would guarantee 50 per cent of the average industrial wage in this

province. I do not think that is an unrealistic expectation in 1987. If this government is really interested in older workers and opening up jobs and treating people with dignity and respect, it would explore those alternatives and move on those alternatives. God knows there is a requirement and a need for it. Pensions are one of the issues uppermost in people's minds in this province.

I want to refer briefly to the whole issue of jobs. I get a little frustrated when I hear governments—we heard the economic statement of the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) last week—paint this rosy picture that everybody is at work and that we have created 140,000 jobs in the last 12 months, when the reality of the situation is there are still thousands of people unemployed in our province.

In northern Ontario there is a huge unemployment rate, a huge difficulty that has not been addressed by this government. Even in communities that are supposed to have experienced this great recovery—we all know our own communities best. My home community still has 10 per cent unemployment and we are supposed to be in the midst of a boom in the auto industry. One can only fear what is going to happen when this free trade deal goes through or when we experience a recession and see the ramifications, because in the last number of years every time we go into a recession and then come back to a recovery, the acceptable unemployment rate seems to be higher than the pre-recession recovery. That is exactly what has happened in this case.

We have an unacceptable unemployment rate in this province, yet jobs do not seem to be a top priority of this government. If in fact the free trade deal goes through, we are going to have less of an ability in this province and in this country to plan our own economic destiny and create jobs in this province than we had prior to the free trade deal.

During the election, free trade and insurance were the number one issues in my riding and in my region. Certainly, it was by no accident that the Premier made his announcement in Windsor of the six conditions by which he would accept a free trade agreement and it was no accident that other spokespeople for the Liberal Party made statements in the Windsor area on free trade.

I remember very well a visit to the Windsor area by the Treasurer when he was asked a question by the press: "What do you think of Mr. Grossman's \$2-billion adjustment fund that he is proposing when free trade is phased in?" The Treasurer's response was: "Why the heck would

we want an adjustment fund? If it is going to cost us \$2 billion, we should say no and stop free trade." I totally agree.

The fact of the matter is, as the election went on, the rhetoric got turned up, the radio ads that were used by the Liberal Party were very interesting and obviously very convincing, if very misleading, as we now find out after the election. On August 11, 1987, the Premier said, "Industrial centres such as in Windsor could be reduced to no-industry ghost towns if the United States succeeds in removing tariff protection from the Canadian autos and parts provided for in the auto pact."

That is exactly what has happened. The current safeguards under the auto pact are very weak but they have been absolutely eliminated, and they have been used in the past. One of the things Mr. Reisman seems to forget, when he talks about the gutting of the auto pact safeguards, is that we have used them. In fact, there is a huge auto plant in my riding that was a result of the fact that Chrysler did not meet its requirements under the auto pact. The federal government negotiated with the company and, as a result, the Chrysler van plant exists with several thousand jobs in my riding.

I spent some time in the last few days re-reading some of the speeches that took place in this place when we were in the depths of the recession. We have to remember that the only time we have had a surplus under the auto pact, with the exception of the last couple of years, was in 1973 and 1974. Every other year the Americans had the surplus. We had an incredible deficit that had been run up from the time the auto pact was signed in 1964 until the early 1980s. We still have some really serious problems in the auto industry, even with the auto pact.

Our auto industry is assembly-dominated. We have fewer skilled workers per capita than they do in the United States. We have little or no research and development done by the auto companies. Office jobs are not protected by the auto pact and hundreds of office jobs have been sent south of the border in the last several months or the last couple of years. The profits continue to go south of the border, obviously because these are American-owned companies.

When we see that those are some of the structural problems we have already had in the auto industry, and that is with some safeguards in the auto pact, it worries us. It scares the living daylights out of us as to what is going to happen to the auto industry without the safeguards.

I want to read again into the record the promises that were made by the Premier during the election. I want to read them because I think they were best put in his radio ad that was played time and time again in auto communities across this province:

"We would be better off with no deal if it is not the right deal.

"There can be no free trade deal without agreement on a fair way to settle disputes and guard Canadian industries from unfair harassment.

"There can be no free trade deal unless the viability of our family farms is safeguarded.

"There can be no free trade deal if it robs us of our essential right as a sovereign nation to try to ensure that foreign investment is in the interest of Canadians.

"There can be no free trade deal if it guts the auto pact.

"Canada's auto industry cannot be a bargaining chip and that is my bottom line."

That is our bottom line too, but the fact of the matter is that no one could possibly listen to or read that radio ad without coming to the same conclusion as we did when we heard it or that the people of this province did when they heard it. That was that the Premier was making an absolute promise that there would be no free trade deal unless those conditions were met.

Now we come back here and what does the Premier say? The Premier says it is going to have to be settled during a federal election and there is nothing he can do about it because 99 per cent of the deal comes under the federal jurisdiction. In particular, the auto pact is a deal between the American government and the Canadian federal government and therefore does not involve the provincial government, even though over 90 per cent of the auto industry is here in Ontario.

1710

One has to look at some of the western provinces, and Mr. Peckford in the east. When our federal government makes deals that are not advantageous to their basic industries, they stand up for their provinces, they stick up for their workers and their jobs.

This government is instead dancing around the issue and refusing to follow through on its promises in the last election. There is no other conclusion that people can come to by rereading these ads and rereading the speeches the Premier made in the last election than that we were misled, hoodwinked by the Liberal Party in the last election. There is no doubt about that at all.

If it was not so important to the future of this province and the future of this country, we could just argue about it. But the fact of the matter is that if Ontario does not stop this deal, and if there is not a federal election at which the people can stop this deal—and a federal election before the signing of the deal is highly unlikely—we are stuck with this deal.

Year after year after year since I have been a member, I have raised concerns about the auto pact. Every time I raised concerns about the auto pact and said that perhaps one of the solutions should be to sit down and look at some improvements in the auto pact, we were told: "You can't do that. The deal has been signed, the industry is rationalized under the auto pact and it can't be changed."

The point is that once there is a free trade deal signed, the companies, the industries will rationalize and workers will be displaced, but once the economy has rationalized to fit that free trade deal, we are sunk. It cannot be reversed as easily as a federal election two years down the road and anybody just simply saying, "We're going to give one year's notice." It is not that simple. I wish it was.

I read some speeches, and I want to quote some of the speeches that were made by Patrick Lavelle, now Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology, when he used to represent the auto parts manufacturers in this province. This was a speech that he gave on January 19, 1982. He talked about how important the auto industry is to some of the communities in this province.

"In Ontario the figures are more dramatic, because every community in southern Ontario—Windsor, Kitchener, St. Catharines and many others—are dependent for their very survival on the prosperity of the auto industry."

He talked about the duty remission plan.

"In recent months we have seen the establishment of Volkswagen in Barrie and growing prospects that Toyota will establish an aluminum die casting plant in British Columbia. A number of French manufacturers who are suppliers to Renault have established in Canada. Many more are contemplating future investments here. These new activities are taking place because the Canadian government had the foresight a few years ago to put into effect third-country remission programs which introduced the concept of Canadian content in imported vehicles."

We all know that by the name of the duty remission program, which is scrapped by the free trade deal. One of the economic initiatives that

we had in order to develop a Canadian auto industry and get some Canadian auto parts into these Japanese and Korean and other cars that were coming into our country was the duty remission program. It is scrapped by the free trade agreement, so there will be no further development of that program in Ontario.

This point is interesting as well, on page 9 of the speech: "But we can't provide Ford, Chrysler and General Motors with a blank cheque as we did 17 years ago. In making the concessions, we propose—after all Canada represents over 10 per cent of the North American market—all vehicles sold in Canada by North American producers should have 85 to 100 per cent Canadian content."

What he is saying here is that while we had the auto pact and the safeguards, they were inadequate and we need to improve on that.

What we are doing here is that we are going back with the free trade agreement. We are eliminating the few safeguards that we in fact had, and the reality is, if the auto pact in 1964 was a blank cheque to the Big Three, this free trade deal, which they now embrace, is even blanker and it will allow the Big Three auto makers across this continent to do whatever the heck they want, with some guarantee of 50 per cent North American content.

I wanted to make some references to an old report I used to use quite often, the Gray report, which was done in the early 1970s on foreign investment and the need to protect our country against foreign investment. I will not be able to quote the section I wanted to, but we know the consequences of more foreign ownership of our economy and we know the free trade agreement takes away even Investment Canada. The Tories killed the Foreign Investment Review Agency and now with Investment Canada those rules will even be eliminated.

I think this government has an absolute obligation to fulfil the promise. This deal goes beyond fighting among political parties in this Legislature. This deal will hurt our country and eventually lead to economic union. The logical conclusion is obviously political union. The deal has to be stopped, and the only province that has the clout within Confederation and within the economy in Canada to stop this deal is the Ontario government. That is what they promised in the election. That is the major problem and concern facing the people of this province now. I hope on behalf of my constituents and the people of this province who have voted for the government that it will fulfil the promise, or as its

members used to say to the Davis government, "Keep the promise."

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, may I first congratulate you on your re-election to the speakership of this House. In my experience in the chamber I cannot recall anyone who has been more effective in presiding over our affairs, which you do always with good humour and a resource of good sense, common sense, which has made our deliberations and debates much more productive than they sometimes have been in history.

I am also very pleased with the selection of the Deputy Speaker and the Chairman of the committees of the whole House. I am also delighted that so many of my colleagues have now found time to join us here in the chamber, because, as Treasurer, I told them that if they did not show up, terrible things would happen to them. I interrupted myself, Mr. Speaker, in making some comments about your jurisdiction here.

I am also pleased at the way we are served from the table. Our clerks have done good work, and the chief clerk, who has recently assumed his duties—about a year ago now—has settled in and earned a reputation in which he enjoys the confidence of all members of the House. It is certainly apparent to all of us that when we ask him for advice, and I think it is obvious that when you ask him for advice, he can respond not only from his erudition but from his experience in a way that is productive and useful.

I notice in walking around the halls that the Sergeant at Arms has new quarters. I have not had a chance to visit him there, but I hope they are suitable to the importance of his position.

I had the opportunity and great pleasure of visiting Quebec City last week for a conference with the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Financial Institutions. I can report to the House that we have what amounts to a regular exchange. We meet in Toronto and Quebec City a couple of times a year to keep up to date with new developments. One of the interesting things there, in line with my reference to the Sergeant at Arms, is that because of the terribly unfortunate tragedy involving a crazed gunman going into the legislative assembly, as we all recall, that House is now extremely well protected against people coming in who might very well be dangerous to the people working there.

I am not recommending anything similar here. We have had this debate before. The Sergeant at Arms there does have additional responsibilities to report to the Speaker and the House for the

custody of the building and the safety of the people working there, something I think is worthy of our careful consideration.

I would like to comment on the speeches made by a number of members. I have just listened to the House leader for the New Democratic Party who speaks well and who projects, as is the socialist custom, great successes in the future. I was looking at the record of success of the NDP. When I was first elected there were five members of the NDP and there are now 19. Using the resources of the Treasury and the Ministry of Economics, I calculate that at that rate it will take 90 years for them to achieve a majority in the House, and even the present leader will be middle-aged by that time.

I think members are aware, however, that there was not just an ordinary arithmetic progression all the way from five to 19, that there were a few vicissitudes.

1720

Mr. B. Rae: Let's have it. Get it out of your system.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: The leader of the NDP is talking about me getting it out of my system, but in fact it might give him a bit of buoyancy to know that in 1971, the Liberals were 20, the NDP 19. In 1975, the Liberals were 36, the NDP 38. I remember the election well. In 1977, the Liberals were 34, the NDP 33. So during the years of my leadership it was rather neck and neck, often with the great Liberal Party of Ontario coming in third, but this has changed.

As I occupy my place here from day to day in the democratic process, I look at the opposition parties and find them really paling in significance beside that great group, sitting to their left, of talented new members of the Legislature just waiting for the favour of the head of government so they can show to an even greater extent their capabilities.

I was going to say, Mr. Speaker, that your application of the rules has been uniform and fair, but for some reason, from my present vantage point, the allocation of times in formal debates does not seem as fair as it once did. I have been very disappointed, to tell you the truth, that I have had the opportunity to hear just a few of my newly elected colleagues contribute to this important debate.

In each instance when they did, however, they very effectively constrained themselves to a relatively limited period of time while the opposition members rambled on and on in a way which I vaguely remember but which I think is best described by a paraphrase of the nonconfi-

dence amendment. These are not the exact words, but they are referring to somebody else and I paraphrase: "Falling instantly into the miasma of complacency and doubletalk so often associated with small minority parties."

I refer to that complacency because complacency is something we must guard against wherever possible. I wanted to warn the leader of the NDP so he could brace himself. I just wanted to quote from the November 20 issue of the Times of Oshawa. One of the leading articles quotes the former chairman of the caucus as follows, "'NDP Too Complacent To Form Ontario Government,' Oshawa's Breaugh Says."

When we talk about complacency, in this amendment that is put to bring about the downfall of this government or at least to indicate an alternative, the big objection the leader of the NDP has is to the complacency of the Liberal government. What could be further from the truth when we look at the fine people here present waiting for an opportunity to express the views of the people in their constituencies, just anxious to add something new and vibrant to the deliberations in the House. Yet because of the complacency of the opposition parties talking endlessly about the same old straw, the same old baloney run through again and again, they have simply had to occupy their places and wait for their turn.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: And let you talk.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Actually, my time is severely limited compared to what has been taken by the opposition parties now.

I do not want to quote the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh) other than to say that over the years he has indicated a fairly strong and perceptive, not to say independent, view of the democratic process. Unfortunately, being the messenger, he was severely punished by his betters in the party and consigned to the second row, dismissed from his job as chairman of caucus and not even allowed to be present today.

I am very concerned about the complacency. I feel that the leader of the NDP, an estimable gentleman indeed—

Mr. B. Rae: What does that mean?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: It means I am going to say something nasty about the member.

I am trying to work in a reference to the little, old, log embassy, which is where he formed his views of what democracy is supposed to be and of what the plight of the little man is. I know he is sensitive about that and I am not going to refer to it, but I would say that when it comes to a severe case of tight halo, the Leader of the Opposition

suffers more than anyone I have ever met. It is characteristic, frankly—to spread the blame—of democratic socialists in general that there is always a tendency to be holy, if not holier.

Of course, he rejects the title of socialism, and so he may want to set himself apart from that intellectual approach to superiority. But the one time that—and some honourable members, knowing me in years gone by, know that I have difficulty sometimes in constraining my annoyance. I used to flush and get thick in the neck and say nasty things. I think the last time was when the former member for Sudbury East called me a liar, and we had a great confrontation here that lasted two or three days until that was finally—

Mr. Wildman: I thought he always spoke well of you.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Well, we are very good friends. I think the real problem is that it did not seem to mean much to him, but it meant quite a bit to me.

I heard the leader of the New Democratic Party on election night claiming the great victory, going from 25 seats to 19. But then he said, and it was at this moment that my neck bulged and my face got red, "I can tell you that as long as I have a breath to breathe, there will be no abuses of power permitted in this province."

I found the quote a bit presumptuous, to say the least. I can assure the honourable member that there is not a member here elected who is not prepared to stop any abuse of power that he or she sees, and that the right to identify those and act against them is one that we all share, not just the Leader of the Opposition or the official opposition. I felt at the time that I wanted to be sure to bring that to the attention of all of us angels, and I now feel better having done so.

The Conservative Party is there, all four of them. Actually, I was very glad to hear the House leader make his address that they are in the midst of a leadership campaign. If I were betting money—not that this will do him anything but harm—I would say he is the guy to watch. If I were a Tory, I would probably get vaguely interested in the campaign.

But we know how difficult these things can be. Actually, the last time the Liberal Party was in the third position—and God forbid that it would ever happen again; but understanding the democratic process, we know that the Leader of the Opposition is right, again—but the campaign is going to be troublesome as far as the third party is concerned. Every time you get serious about anything, there is going to be some unkind person over here referring to the fact that

particular questioner or the person making that particular intervention is moving ahead—like right now the member for Markham (Mr. Cousens) is ahead because he is pretty good in here. It is pretty tough, yes.

My honourable friend refers to the bluebirds that the Tory party is selling, the turkey sale, which was door-to-door before Thanksgiving and is now one of those boiler-room telephone deals where they are trying to move the stuff, but if they are working on that \$5-million debt, it will take a little while. Even the books of the province look better than theirs, and that is not a compliment.

1730

But I know there is a tendency for the old-line parties to be talking—

Mr. Breagh: I have been summoned.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I am delighted that the member for Oshawa was permitted to join us. There are a few things I would like to go over, now that he is back.

An hon. member: See you Monday.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Well, I do not know. I probably should not waste time on this, but I will anyway since it is my time.

There is a tendency for us to be concerned, I guess, with the evils of patronage, and now that it has been eliminated once and for all in the province, I just could not resist looking at this report in the *Globe and Mail* of November 21 about the federal appointments to the Northern Ontario Development Advisory Board, with Leo Bernier as chairman—not a bad idea. We have been known on this side to appoint Conservative cabinet ministers to positions of importance. I just wanted to mention that in case any of the members opposite want to make any long-range plans.

But really, when you look down the list, Alan Pope's daddy is here, he is a member of the board; so is Gaston Demers, a former Tory MPP. As a matter of fact, he came to a Liberal meeting in Sudbury during the campaign. I probably should not let that out among his friends, but there he was. Of course, he wanted to see what our side had to say.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: That's when Nickel Belt had good representation.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: That is right. It is the only riding we came third in, as a matter of fact.

An hon. member: Actually, I do not think that is right.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Oh, there was another one? Anyway, we are going to correct that.

I can go down this list, and this whole northern development board at the federal level is made up of these great old retreads from the Tory party. I just wish that Mr. Mulroney would take a leaf out of the book of the Premier of Ontario and put that all aside. Appointments on the basis of merit rule the day, and I think it is a—

Interjections.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Well, it is a fact, and it is just one of the things that has made the government establish itself in the hearts and minds of the people of Ontario, however temporarily.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: Russ Ramsay, Ross McClellan, Odoardo Di Santo.

Mr. Harris: John Follis is from a well-known Liberal family.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: That is not the way he is identified.

“John Follis of North Bay runs a chain of shoe stores in the eastern half of the region and is a friend and supporter of Conservative MPP Michael Harris.”

I did not want to say that. Is there anybody else the member wants to refer to?

Actually, I was just talking about the relative numbers of socialists, going back to 1959 when the great Donald C. MacDonald was leading the party from nowhere to great successes, and it is nice to know that he is still active in public affairs. The Tories, in that time, however, 1959, had 71 out of 98. Those were very depressing times.

As I said, in going from five to 19, it will take the NDP 90 years to form a government. The PCs, going from 71 to 16, are going to be as dead as the dodo by the time the NDP makes its final emergence that has been so long predicted.

However, although there are no new Conservative members this time—and we had the opportunity to hear their views expressed at length one more time—we all know that every member of this House shares in a commitment to the welfare of the province which is totally unquestioned.

When it gets to the issues of the day, and there are many of them and a variety of importance, we know that our motives are pure on all sides. I believe that to be true, and until we accept that on all sides and accept the motives of all members of the Legislature, in my view, the effectiveness of the chamber is somewhat constricted.

The House leader of the NDP referred to the Liberal campaign platform as being misleading. From his point of view, it probably was. The

voters did not find it so. I cannot really object to the utilization of that word.

The House leader of the Conservatives said the Premier cannot be trusted. That is getting fairly close to the point where I feel it contributes to an attitude in the community that is not so good about politicians. If he really believes the Premier cannot be trusted, that is a serious thing. I do not believe that he believes that. Sometimes in this House we get into an exaggeration of our views, which is seriously nonproductive.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Say one thing and do something else.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Well, I am sorry. These are my views; this is my time.

I go back to the leader of the New Democratic Party, who earlier in this session repeatedly used the word “fraudulent” in referring to the Premier and his view of the campaign issues. If the member cannot see my point, I cannot help him. I just simply suggest that there are certain words and phrases that do not belong in an appropriate discussion of the issues. It is quite possible to express the strongest possible difference of opinion without saying the leader of the government is fraudulent or that he cannot be trusted. That is my view.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: The member should just think about the sermon and he will be a much better politician, I will tell him that.

I want to refer briefly to the report of the Provincial Auditor which was tabled today, and I read from page 3, section 1.2:

Mr. B. Rae: Keep your sermon for somebody else.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Your neck is beginning to bulge.

Mr. B. Rae: Patronizing nonsense.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Just a little advice to people who need it.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Quoting from the auditor’s report, page 3, I read that “it is our opinion that the areas audited during the past year have been satisfactorily administered overall” and “it is our view...that...administration of public funds continues to improve.” I can assure members that, as Treasurer, I am delighted to read those words.

I listened to the question put before the House by the House leader of the Conservative Party indicating once again a need for improvement,

and I agree with him in that. My own view is that we should always be doing everything we can, as a House, to improve the role taken by the auditor, who I would say is probably the cornerstone of keeping us all upright in the performance of our duties.

The honourable member, once again from the NDP, finished his remarks with reference to the issue dealing with free trade. He somehow believes the government was not expressing its view and acting in an appropriate manner. Right now, the Premier and a number of my colleagues are in Thunder Bay at a development conference which was scheduled many weeks ago, at the time when we fully expected this debate to be completed last week. Unfortunately, or fortunately, that is not the way it turned out.

Members are aware that a committee of members of cabinet was established as soon as the free trade proposals were brought forward with any definiteness, and the position taken by the government has been put across the province in a way in which the citizens' groups and individuals can come and meet the members of the government and express their views.

The Premier has spoken both here and elsewhere across Canada, strongly expressing the view that while we favour any substantial and significant increase in trade, we do not support this deal. The details associated with it having to do with the auto pact, having to do with the new position in the marketability of our energy resources, having to do with opening up the borders of the nation to external purchase as far as our resources and our industries are concerned have been clearly expressed in the strongest possible terms by the Premier and a variety of members of the government.

There is no doubt about this, and there will be many further opportunities for this to happen. I cannot understand what the Leader of the Opposition and the principal spokesman are referring to today when they say that somehow there is something dishonest or fraudulent or untrustworthy about this particular position, because it is a clear statement of a position that is supported by many thinking people in this country and in this province.

When we refer to the speech itself, it seems really unbelievable that members of this House could contemplate voting against its contents. We have made and continue to support a commitment to quality in education. This is not just generalization; this is specific, referring to the provision of more teachers, particularly for

the lower grades, and additional support at the post-secondary level.

1740

The Premier's Council on technology, which has \$100 million this year to spend in the improvement of research and giving this jurisdiction a stronger competitive position in world markets, is among the leaders of North American jurisdictions in this connection. One of my greatest—

Mr. Brandt: They haven't done anything.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: The honourable member says they have done nothing. The commitment to centres of excellence, an additional \$40 million this year, has been recognized by independent thinkers everywhere as one of the leading initiatives in this whole area of very high competition.

The improvements provided in health services are well known to all members. These have not been distributed in any way but the most independent and fair commitment of an additional \$850 million across the province for new health services. We were able to reach an understanding and an agreement with our medical practitioners so that the doctors are doing their excellent work happily and effectively in all parts of the province.

We have moved under the leadership of the former minister and the new minister to provide programs for affordable, quality housing. We are very proud of our accomplishments there.

As for the development of the north, we now have a new minister who is associated with northern development, the House leader himself. Members from the north will be aware that the government's commitment to moving offices and public service jobs to the north is well received. Some 1,100 new jobs are going to be put into the north.

In agriculture, our programs have been constructive and full of initiative. Very few rural communities have not responded to the leadership of the minister and the ministry as we have gone forward with an improvement to support this industry, which has been in the economic doldrums for so long, for too long.

The initiatives for the protection of workers, however heartily criticized by the socialists, still have been reasonable and the improvement is there for any reasonable person to see. The new minister and his predecessor have done an excellent job and will continue to do so.

The support for the seniors and the disabled is well known.

We have strengthened our environmental protection programs, and with the minister still in charge, we can look for even more of the same.

The government is based on accountability and openness. We are proud of the fiscal responsibility that has been our hallmark. While the people on the opposite side may titter, the Provincial Auditor supports the contention. I really am amazed that the opposition parties would continue to go through the pettifoggery of picayune criticism. Here is an opportunity for them to show they are larger than their reputations.

In the last few weeks, the people had an opportunity to assess the programs and personalities involved. Everybody can see what that decision has been. Here we are, in the very first session, with a speech from the throne that gives the sort of leadership the province can benefit hugely from, and which is presented in a fiscally responsible way.

I have already referred sufficiently to the amendment put forward by the official opposition. The Progressive Conservatives at least had the common sense, let us say, to realize that the government program is going to go forward, and if they want to mindlessly vote against it, then that is something they can do.

I would just say to all members here gathered that this is an opportunity, as we start the first session of a new parliament, where we are fresh returned from an election campaign and all that that entails, that we share the motives without any party exclusion for the good of the province. It is a chance for all of us to see that this program is well thought out and to join in a unanimous vote to support and strengthen the leadership of the Premier and this Liberal government of vision and accomplishment.

Mr. Speaker: I presume that completes the debate on the speech from the throne.

On Monday, November 9, Ms. Poole moved, seconded by Mr. Brown, that an humble address be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant Governor as follows:

To the Honourable Lincoln M. Alexander, a member of Her Majesty's Privy Council for Canada, Knight of Grace of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, one of Her Majesty's counsel learned in the law, bachelor of arts, doctor of laws, colonel in Her Majesty's armed forces supplementary reserve, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario:

We, Her Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario, now assembled, beg leave to

thank Your Honour for the gracious speech Your Honour has addressed to us.

On Tuesday, November 10, Mr. B. Rae moved that the address in reply to the speech from the throne be amended by adding the following words:

"This House, however, regrets that the speech from the throne fails to respond adequately to urgent and pressing issues facing this province and condemns the government for:

"Breaking its promise to veto the trade agreement signed by the governments of Canada and the United States, including refusing to commit itself unconditionally to not implement those parts of the agreement falling under provincial jurisdiction;

"Ignoring the enormous challenges of inequality and poverty in Ontario;

"Continuing to put the interests of private insurance corporations before the drivers of Ontario by proposing weak and flawed measures to deal with the insurance crisis;

"Failing to protect the environment and to enforce existing laws effectively;

"Failing to provide the means to deal with the challenges of education and literacy;

"Failing to act on the needs of our elderly by reforming the private and public pension systems in Ontario, including guaranteeing indexed pensions;

"Ignoring the ongoing scandal of the compensation and rehabilitation systems for injured workers;

"Failing to reform the administration of our health and social services in an imaginative and effective way;

"Insulting northern Ontarians with its incoherent, ill-conceived and underfunded approach to the serious economic and social challenges facing that area of our province;

"Failing to provide comprehensive and enforceable employment equity programs that would benefit women, visible minorities, the disabled and native Canadians in the workplace;

"Paying lipservice to the needs of the homeless and others unable to afford decent housing throughout Ontario, but failing to deal with the crisis with adequate programs;

"And falling instantly into the miasma of complacency and doubletalk so often associated with large majority governments.

"Therefore, this House declares its lack of confidence in this government."

1757

The House divided on Mr. B. Rae's amendment to the motion, which was negatived on the following vote:

Ayes

Allen, Breaugh, Bryden, Charlton, Cooke, D. S., Farnan, Grier, Johnston, R. F., Laughren, Mackenzie, Martel, Morin-Strom, Philip, E., Rae, B., Reville, Swart, Wildman.

Nays

Adams, Ballinger, Beer, Black, Bossy, Bradley, Brandt, Callahan, Caplan, Carrothers, Chiarelli, Collins, Conway, Cooke, D. R., Cordiano, Cousens, Cureatz, Daigeler, Dietsch, Eakins, Elliot, Elston, Epp, Eves, Faubert, Fawcett, Ferraro, Fleet, Furlong, Haggerty, Harris, Hart, Henderson;

Jackson, Johnson, J. M., Kanter, LeBourdais, Leone, Lipsett, Lupusella, MacDonald, Mahoney, Mancini, Marland, Matrundola, McCague, McClelland, McGuigan, McGuinty, Miller, Morin, Munro, Neumann, Nicholas, Nixon, J. B., Nixon, R. F., Offer, O'Neill, Y., Owen, Patten, Pelissero, Phillips, G.;

Poirier, Polsinelli, Poole, Pope, Ray, M. C., Reycraft, Riddell, Roberts, Runciman, Ruprecht, Scott, Smith, D. W., Smith, E. J., Sola, Sorbara, South, Sterling, Stoner, Sullivan, Sweeney, Tatham, Van Horne, Velshi, Ward, Wiseman, Wong, Wrye.

Ayes 17; nays 89.

The House divided on Ms. Poole's motion, which was agreed to on the following vote:

Ayes

Adams, Ballinger, Beer, Black, Bossy, Bradley, Callahan, Caplan, Carrothers, Chiarelli, Collins, Conway, Cooke, D. R., Cordiano, Daigeler, Dietsch, Eakins, Elliot, Elston, Epp, Faubert, Fawcett, Ferraro, Fleet, Furlong, Haggerty, Hart, Henderson, Kanter, LeBourdais, Leone, Lipsett, Lupusella;

MacDonald, Mahoney, Mancini, Matrundola, McClelland, McGuigan, McGuinty, Miller, Morin, Munro, Neumann, Nicholas, Nixon, J. B., Nixon, R. F., Offer, O'Neill, Y., Owen, Patten, Pelissero, Phillips, G., Poirier, Polsinelli, Poole, Ray, M. C., Reycraft, Riddell, Roberts, Ruprecht, Scott, Smith, D. W., Smith, E. J., Sola, Sorbara, South, Stoner, Sullivan, Sweeney, Tatham, Van Horne, Velshi, Ward, Wong, Wrye.

Nays

Allen, Brandt, Breaugh, Bryden, Charlton, Cooke, D. S., Cousens, Cureatz, Eves, Farnan, Grier, Harris, Jackson, Johnson, J. M., Johnston, R. F., Laughren, Mackenzie, Marland, Martel, McCague, Morin-Strom, Philip, E.,

Pope, Rae, B., Reville, Runciman, Sterling, Swart, Wildman, Wiseman.

Ayes 76; Nays 30.

Resolved: That an humble address be presented to His Honour the Lieutenant Governor as follows:

To the Honourable Lincoln M. Alexander, a member of Her Majesty's Privy Council for Canada, Knight of Grace of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, one of Her Majesty's counsel, learned in the law, bachelor of arts, doctor of laws, colonel in Her Majesty's armed forces supplementary reserve, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario:

We, Her Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario, now assembled, beg leave to thank Your Honour for the gracious speech Your Honour has addressed to us.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Mr. Conway: On behalf of the members, I congratulate the table on what I thought was a stellar performance this afternoon.

I want to make an amendment to the business of the House that I read last Thursday, and that is, tomorrow the first item of business after routine proceedings will be a debate on government motion 5 establishing the select committee on constitutional reform. After that debate has concluded, we will proceed to the debate on interim supply, followed by the Ontario Loan Act.

Mr. Speaker: Pursuant to standing order 30, the question that this House do now adjourn is deemed to have been made.

RADIOACTIVE SOIL

Mr. Speaker: The member for Markham has given notice of his dissatisfaction with the answer to his question given by the Minister of Government Services (Mr. Patten). The member has up to five minutes to debate this matter, and the minister has up to five minutes to reply.

1810

Mr. Cousens: I am just surprised to see all the members of the House leaving at this point in time. We are dealing with an important issue and it does require the attention of the House for a little bit of overtime inasmuch as the people of Ontario would like to know who is responsible for the housing needs of the people on McClure Crescent.

As I count it, there are six ministries that could well be involved with this whole situation. There

is no lead minister. Having presented the question yesterday to the Minister of Housing (Ms. Hošek), I hoped indeed that this same minister, who once before had deferred the answer to the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley), would show some sense of leadership. Instead, she deferred it to the Minister of Government Services (Mr. Patten), who again, like the Minister of the Environment when he was given a chance to respond, did not respond to it fully.

It is going to involve Management Board of Cabinet in order to come through with some kind of recommendation and approval for whatever comes forward from the discussions that will undoubtedly go on among the other ministries. It will also involve the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, because indeed it is in a municipality of the province. It is also going to involve the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) and the Ministry of Economics.

There are at least six ministries involved with McClure Crescent, and there is not one minister who is prepared to stand up and make a commitment for this government to the people who are involved. It starts back with a statement and a commitment made by the Premier (Mr. Peterson), who said several years ago, "No one in his right mind would live in that neighbourhood."

In the meantime, some 40 or so people in the neighbourhood have gone to court. They have fought their case and they are now in the process of having meetings with the minister, hopefully by Friday. I think the lawyers and their people will be making representations to each other, but there is little hope of a resolution to this problem.

I hope the TV cameras are picking it up that all these people who are sitting around the minister are moving in to give him comfort. I should think there would be a lot more comfort than what they can give him. There is little comfort to the people on Malvern Crescent, because they are the ones who have asked for some action by this government and it is not forthcoming.

An hon. member: You have the wrong street. You do not even know what street it is.

Mr. Cousens: McClure Crescent. I got so distracted with all these new faces. I thank the member.

What we really face up to now is, what is this government going to do? There are 40 that will be addressed. What happens to the other 60 or so? That was the substance of my question yesterday. I asked the Minister of Housing and she deferred this to the Minister of Government Services.

Maybe he did not have enough time to think about it. What does the Minister of Government Services then have in mind for the 60 or so residents on McClure Crescent who have been unfairly excluded from any form of compensation? What is he going to do about the rest of them?

It was the opinion of the Premier and it was the opinion of the minister's party long before it took government that it was going to do something for these people. It made that commitment.

In the process of working things out, it was thought that maybe there would be a place found for removal of that soil. If it turns out there is no place it can be moved, there was at least an opportunity up until last year that these same people who are involved could have been moved up into the Malvern development and that in fact there would be a transfer of properties considered. The Ontario Land Corp. owns a considerable amount of land up there, or did own it. It has now sold the property to a private developer. The province reaped its harvest and now that opportunity for working out some kind of resolution for the people on McClure is out of the question.

I am concerned about a deep, underlying problem of people in this province who do not provide enough votes to elect a councillor, let alone a government. There are only 100 homes or households, there are only about 250 or 300 votes, but there is one principle. The one principle we are talking about is the principle of honesty and integrity to stand up and follow through on the commitments that were given by this government, by this Premier. All 100 people who are involved in that neighbourhood had a commitment that the government would do something for them. The Premier, when he said that no one in his right mind would live there, was not talking about just 40 of them; he was talking about the whole street.

Come on. We want to see some follow-through on it. We want to see some action. We want to see someone stand up to the bar and say, "I am willing to stand up and do something for these people." The Minister of Housing has refused to do that. Why has she not come forward and said "I am going to take a lead" in any of the things? She has not for the 102,000 affordable units, and she has not for this. Maybe today we are going to hear the answer.

Hon. Mr. Patten: In response to the honourable member's comments and concerns, I would like to tell him that I personally identify with and share his concern. I think, if he will listen to me for a moment, he will see that the government

also shares that concern by its demonstrations of what it has done to date and what it is doing at the moment.

First, I would like him to know that my ministry, in essence, is a service industry for the government of Ontario, and our involvement in McClure Crescent began as a service to the Ministry of Housing. As our continuing role is to work for and with others, such as the Ministry of Housing and the Ministry of the Environment, to address all of these particular aspects, we have done so. But the issue of low-level radioactive soil on these particular properties has been ongoing. In fact, radioactive materials were disposed of at this site long before the provincial and federal governments purchased this land and, in fact, long before the housing development was begun there.

Nevertheless, we feel an obligation to the people in the area, and I think we have demonstrated this. An interim site to store this low-level radioactive material was selected by the previous government; I think the member would know that. But as the honourable member is aware, this was the subject of a court injunction, which took effect in April 1984. The court's decision came in June of this year, and the period for the appeals expired in late September.

This government has taken steps to help the owners of the houses that are directly affected, as the member has said. The honourable member knows we offered to purchase 40 properties where some radioactivity was found. Since that

offer was made, he well knows, 29 home owners have exercised their right to sell their homes. I should point out that at the present time these particular properties are rented, and the tenants were shown the soil survey reports before, of course, they exercised their option to lease these homes. The government's offer to buy these properties was made out of concern for the individuals living there in order for them to keep open their options to move to any other place in order to live.

We are also aware of the concern from owners of adjacent properties about how low-level radioactivity on their neighbours' properties affects their own property values, in particular—I suppose this was the part I had left out yesterday in response to the member's question—the 60 people. Many of these concerned home owners are involved in litigation with the government. In fact, at the moment, the judge has given his decision on liability in favour of those home owners. This is recent. Currently what is proceeding is the consideration, in fact, not of the nature—because there will be compensation—but of the level of compensation to the particular people about whom the member expresses a concern which I share and so does this government.

Finally, we have not lost sight of the need to deal effectively and responsibly with all of the concerns related to this particular issue.

The House adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*

(130 seats)

First Session, 34th Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. Lincoln M. Alexander, PC, QC

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- | | |
|--|---|
| Adams, Peter (Peterborough L) | Fulton, Hon. Ed , Minister of Transportation
(Scarborough East L) |
| Allen, Richard (Hamilton West NDP) | Furlong, Allan W. (Durham Centre L) |
| Ballinger, William G. (Durham-York L) | Grandmaitre, Hon. Bernard C. , Minister of
Revenue (Ottawa East L) |
| Beer, Charles (York North L) | Grier, Ruth A. (Etobicoke-Lakeshore NDP) |
| Black, Kenneth H. (Muskoka-Georgian Bay L) | Haggerty, Ray (Niagara South L) |
| Bossy, Maurice L. (Chatham-Kent L) | Hampton, Howard (Rainy River NDP) |
| Bradley, Hon. James J. , Minister of the
Environment (St. Catharines L) | Harris, Michael D. (Nipissing PC) |
| Brandt, Andrew S. (Sarnia PC) | Hart, Christine E. (York East L) |
| Breagh, Michael J. (Oshawa NDP) | Henderson, D. James (Etobicoke-Humber L) |
| Brown, Michael A. (Algoma-Manitoulin L) | Hošek, Hon. Chaviva , Minister of Housing
(Oakwood L) |
| Bryden, Marion (Beaches-Woodbine NDP) | Jackson, Cameron (Burlington South PC) |
| Callahan, Robert V. (Brampton South L) | Johnson, Jack (Wellington PC) |
| Campbell, Sterling (Sudbury L) | Johnston, Richard F. (Scarborough West NDP) |
| Caplan, Hon. Elinor , Minister of Health
(Orile L) | Kanter, Ron (St. Andrew-St. Patrick L) |
| Carrothers, Douglas A. (Oakville South L) | Kerrio, Hon. Vincent G. , Minister of Natural
Resources (Niagara Falls L) |
| Charlton, Brian A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP) | Keyes, Kenneth A. (Kingston and The Islands L) |
| Chiarelli, Robert (Ottawa West L) | Kozyra, Taras B. (Port Arthur L) |
| Cleary, John C. (Cornwall L) | Kwinter, Hon. Monte , Minister of Industry,
Trade and Technology (Wilson Heights L) |
| Collins, Shirley (Wentworth East L) | Laughren, Floyd (Nickel Belt NDP) |
| Conway, Hon. Sean G. , Minister of Mines
(Renfrew North L) | LeBourdais, Linda (Etobicoke West L) |
| Cooke, David R. (Kitchener L) | Leone, Laureano (Downsview L) |
| Cooke, David S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP) | Lipsett, Ron (Grey L) |
| Cordiano, Joseph (Lawrence L) | Lupusella, Tony (Dovercourt L) |
| Cousens, W. Donald (Markham PC) | MacDonald, Keith (Prince Edward-Lennox L) |
| Cureatz, Sam L. (Durham East PC) | Mackenzie, Bob (Hamilton East NDP) |
| Curling, Hon. Alvin , Minister of Skills
Development (Scarborough North L) | Mahoney, Steven W. (Mississauga West L) |
| Daigeler, Hans (Nepean L) | Mancini, Hon. Remo , Minister without Port-
folio (Essex South L) |
| Dietsch, Michael M. (St. Catharines-Brock L) | Marland, Margaret (Mississauga South PC) |
| Eakins, Hon. John F. , Minister of Municipal
Affairs (Victoria-Haliburton L) | Martel, Shelley (Sudbury East NDP) |
| Edighoffer, Hon. Hugh A. , Speaker (Perth L) | Matrundola, Gino (Willowdale L) |
| Elliot, R. Walter (Halton North L) | McCague, George R. (Simcoe West PC) |
| Elston, Hon. Murray J. , Chairman of the
Management Board of Cabinet (Bruce L) | McClelland, Carman (Brampton North L) |
| Epp, Herbert A. (Waterloo North L) | McGuigan, James F. (Essex-Kent L) |
| Eves, Ernie L. (Parry Sound PC) | McGuinty, Dalton J. (Ottawa South L) |
| Farnan, Michael (Cambridge NDP) | McLean, Allan K. (Simcoe East PC) |
| Faubert, Frank (Scarborough-Ellesmere L) | McLeod, Hon. Lyn , Minister of Colleges and
Universities (Fort William L) |
| Fawcett, Joan M. (Northumberland L) | Miclash, Frank (Kenora L) |
| Ferraro, Rick E. (Guelph L) | Miller, Gordon I. (Norfolk L) |
| Fleet, David (High Park-Swansea L) | Morin, Gilles E. (Carleton East L) |
| Fontaine, Hon. René , Minister of Northern
Development (Cochrane North L) | Morin-Strom, Karl E. (Sault Ste. Marie NDP) |

Munro, Hon. Lily O., Minister of Culture and Communications (Hamilton Centre L)

Neumann, David E. (Brantford L)

Nicholas, Cindy (Scarborough Centre L)

Nixon, J. Bradford (York Mills L)

Nixon, Hon. Robert F., Deputy Premier, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics and Minister of Financial Institutions (Brant-Haldimand L)

Offer, Steven (Mississauga North L)

O'Neil, Hon. Hugh P., Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Quinte L)

O'Neill, Yvonne (Ottawa-Rideau L)

Owen, Bruce (Simcoe Centre L)

Patten, Hon. Richard, Minister of Government Services (Ottawa Centre L)

Pelissero, Harry E. (Lincoln L)

Peterson, Hon. David R., Premier and President of the Council and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (London Centre L)

Philip, Ed (Etobicoke-Rexdale NDP)

Phillips, Hon. Gerry, Minister of Citizenship (Scarborough-Agincourt L)

Poirier, Jean, Deputy Speaker and Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House (Prescott and Russell L)

Pollock, Jim (Hastings-Peterborough PC)

Polsinelli, Claudio (Yorkview L)

Poole, Dianne (Eglinton L)

Pope, Alan W. (Cochrane South PC)

Pouliot, Gilles (Lake Nipigon NDP)

Rae, Bob (York South NDP)

Ramsay, Hon. David, Minister of Correctional Services (Timiskaming L)

Ray, Michael C. (Windsor-Walkerville L)

Reville, David (Riverdale NDP)

Reycraft, Douglas R. (Middlesex L)

Riddell, Hon. Jack, Minister of Agriculture and Food (Huron L)

Roberts, Marietta L. D., Deputy Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House (Elgin L)

Runciman, Robert W. (Leeds-Grenville PC)

Ruprecht, Tony (Parkdale L)

Scott, Hon. Ian G., Attorney General (St. George-St. David L)

Smith, David W. (Lambton L)

Smith, Hon. E. Joan, Solicitor General (London South L)

Sola, John (Mississauga East L)

Sorbara, Hon. Gregory S., Minister of Labour (York Centre L)

South, Larry (Frontenac-Addington L)

Sterling, Norman W. (Carleton PC)

Stoner, Norah (Durham West L)

Sullivan, Barbara (Halton Centre L)

Swart, Mel (Welland-Thorold NDP)

Sweeney, Hon. John, Minister of Community and Social Services (Kitchener-Wilmot L)

Tatham, Charlie (Oxford L)

Van Horne, Ronald G. (London North L)

Velshi, Murad (Don Mills L)

Villeneuve, Noble (Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry PC)

Ward, Hon. Christopher C., Minister of Education (Wentworth North L)

Wildman, Bud (Algoma NDP)

Wilson, Hon. Mavis, Minister without Portfolio (Dufferin-Peel L)

Wiseman, Douglas J. (Lanark-Renfrew PC)

Wong, Hon. Robert C., Minister of Energy (Fort York L)

Wrye, Hon. William, Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Windsor-Sandwich L)

*The alphabetical list of members appears in each issue. Lists of the members of the executive council, parliamentary assistants and members of committees, brought up to date as necessary, are published in Hansard in the first and last issues of each session and on the first sitting day of each month.

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Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

First Session, 34th Parliament
Wednesday, November 25, 1987



Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: Claude L. DesRosiers

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Wednesday, November 25, 1987

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

Prayers.

GREGORY PUTZ

Mr. Speaker: I call the attention of the House to our visitor at the table, Gregory Putz, Clerk Assistant of the Saskatchewan Legislature, who is on attachment to the Office of the Clerk.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE

Mr. Swart: It is interesting to see the Liberals and the Conservatives tripping over each other here in their haste to shine the shoes of the private insurance companies. Do I ever welcome the chance to answer yesterday's attack on the western public auto insurance plans by the member for Leeds-Grenville (Mr. Runciman).

I do not dispute his figures, but let us put the issue in perspective. He talks about Manitoba's \$52-million loss. Does he not know that Ontario auto insurers claimed to have lost \$330 million last year? The difference is that Manitoba had accumulated rate reserves to cover its loss, while Ontarians, according to the insurance companies, had the loss taken out of their property and liability insurance premiums.

For the last two years, the annual rate of increase has averaged two and a half per cent in the public plans. In Ontario, it was 20 per cent each year.

Including the recently announced rate increases in the west, the total six-year increase in British Columbia is 35 per cent, Manitoba 37 per cent and Saskatchewan six per cent. By comparison, Ontario's six-year increase was over 70 per cent. Including the new increases, average rates in BC will be \$482, Manitoba \$405 and Saskatchewan \$251. I think Ontario motorists would just love to pay those rates instead of the average \$640 here.

If the minister in charge of insurance believes all the Conservative member said yesterday—he is nodding his head—would it not be wonderful to do that in-depth, independent comparison of the rates, efficiency and fairness of the western public plans with Ontario's private system? I challenge the minister to have it done.

TRADE WITH UNITED STATES

Mr. Harris: Today, the Premier's (Mr. Peterson) Conference on Northern Business and Entrepreneurship winds up in Thunder Bay. Two weeks ago, I pointed out to this House that one of the problems with the conference, from a northeastern Ontario perspective, was that the conference was supposed to be on entrepreneurship yet few entrepreneurs could afford \$1,000 and four days off to attend, so most of the representations are government employees or taxpayer-sponsored. Regrettably, nothing was done to correct this.

Last week the government issued a selectively biased report against free trade, but even it indicated the resource industries in the north would benefit. The Minister of Northern Development (Mr. Fontaine), when asked, had not even read his own government report and did not know what was in it. Why were not he or his ministry involved in it right from the beginning? One wonders what is going on.

Recently, in addition to the resource industries of the north, the Northern Ontario Tourist Outfitters Association came out in support of free trade and said it wants "the Premier to stop opposing the deal." But press reports indicate the Premier said in Thunder Bay that the resource sector would not benefit, contrary to what his own studies say and contrary to what the industry says.

We have to wonder who in this government, on this issue as on many others, is going to speak up for northern Ontario.

FARM CHEMICALS

Mr. McGuigan: I want to share with present members and especially with the new members the value of this time before question period. It is an opportunity for us to make a statement and sometimes initiate action not only within the government, but also we can use our influence as members of this forum to generate public or private interests in a personal observation.

Today I am pleased to report I have experienced such a success. In May of last year, in a statement to this House, I reported on a series of farm chemical thefts in southwestern Ontario. I pointed out the serious implications this trend

could have on the agricultural industry if not put in check. My statement prompted action by a group of concerned citizens from the farm community and chemical manufacturing and distributing industries. Further statements and questions in the House helped the group advertise itself and its reason for being.

The co-operation of the then Solicitor General, the member for Kingston and The Islands (Mr. Keyes), and the Ontario Provincial Police was very beneficial. The then Solicitor General took time to speak to the group when the cabinet was meeting in Chatham.

Recently the farm chemical anti-theft program announced a net decrease in losses of 65 per cent in only one year. Using ingenuity and initiative and the combined efforts of the OPP, industry, individuals and the press, a self-help program was designed and is working. I am proud to have been involved in such a success.

WASTE DISPOSAL

Miss Martel: Since May of this year, residents of Old Wanup Road in Dill township in my riding have been living with the world's largest outhouse in their backyard. This is an intolerable situation where untreated human waste is being dumped into the site, which was once a gravel pit. Concerns about site suitability, the potential contamination of the area, the results of ministry testing and the legality of the sanitation company's permits to transport and dump there have all been raised. The situation involves the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, the Ministry of the Environment and, most recently, the Ministry of Government Services.

In September, agreement was reached to dump on a site on the Burwash property and this was approved by the Ministry of the Environment, but the dumping at the Wanup site still continues. The Ministry of Government Services is dragging its feet in getting the Burwash parcel sectioned and transferred to the Ministry of the Environment.

Concerns about the suitability of the Wanup Road gravel pit have now intensified with the winter freeze. Any filtration of the waste will now certainly not take place and we can well imagine the effects of this accumulated waste with the spring runoff.

Despite more questions regarding the validity of the sanitation company's transportation permits, the MOE has not halted the dumping pending the transfer to the Burwash site, and this raises several questions. Should dumping not have been halted at the Wanup site until the

Burwash site became available? Will the Ministry of the Environment undertake extensive testing of the soil and the water in the spring, for the benefit of the Wanup Road residents? Finally, why cannot the ministries of Government Services and the Environment get their acts together when the health of 300 residents is at stake?

CHRISTOPHER CARTER

Mr. Eves: As most members are probably aware, two-year-old Christopher Carter from British Columbia successfully underwent surgery at the Hospital for Sick Children on Tuesday to remove a nonmalignant tumour from his face and neck.

I am sure all members of this House will join me and our party in offering our sincere best wishes to Christopher and his family. The courage the Carter family has exhibited is to be admired.

I would also like to offer my congratulations to the doctors and staff at the Hospital for Sick Children. Their dedication and experience has made the hospital not only a world-class institute but also a caring institute.

1340

LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD OF ONTARIO

Mr. Philip: As our party's critic on government spending and a member of the standing committee on public accounts, I am alarmed at the fact that every single year since 1983 the Provincial Auditor of Ontario has found some form of mismanagement at the Liquor Control Board of Ontario.

In the auditor's report released yesterday, there is a stinging criticism of the board's failure to efficiently manage its inventory. The auditor estimates that over \$70 million was tied up in excess inventory. He states that the excess in inventories could be costing the board between \$3 million and \$7 million in interest costs per year. In addition, one must add increased costs related to warehousing, transportation and so forth.

In 1983, the LCBO was criticized by the auditor for having excessive inventories. The standing committee on public accounts reported in the same year that the board had promised to conduct a study to determine the optimum inventory levels to be warehoused.

On Monday, the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Wrye), in what can only be considered a pre-emptive attempt to neutralize criticism, delivered a statement once

again promising that the LCBO would improve its control of inventories.

I and other members of the public accounts committee are tired of seeing the same old faces making the same old promises. It is time for the minister and his staff to involve themselves in cleaning up the LCBO. I hope that my comments today will have a sobering effect on both the minister and the LCBO.

JOHN LANE

Mr. McLean: I want to bring to the attention of the House that our colleague John Lane, who is retired, is in Women's College Hospital for a short period of time. I know that he will be watching the proceedings of this House today, and I know that his colleagues here would all like to take this opportunity to wish him well. I am sure that when he watches what takes place here in this question period, it will bring back a lot of memories of this establishment, where he spent so many years enjoying it and working for the people of the province.

HOSPITAL FUNDING

Mr. Harris: Unaccustomed as we are to getting four statements, I will try to proceed as quickly as I can.

The effort of combining St. Joseph's General Hospital of North Bay and North Bay Civic Hospital into one hospital and the funding for the same are an issue that has been ongoing for a good number of years. A lot of planning and a lot of detail have gone into it. It was ready administratively to fund about January or February 1986, and we still hear it is going to be next fiscal year before anybody even looks at it.

Mr. Speaker: The member's time has expired.

Mr. Harris: It is a disgrace on behalf of this government—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

Hon. Mr. Peterson: It is with great pleasure that I rise today to announce a motion to establish the select committee on constitutional reform. I do so with a deep sense of the historical significance of the constitutional accord reached last June by the first ministers.

Ontario governments have for many years had a constructive relationship with our sister province of Quebec. One hundred years ago last

month, the then Premiers of Quebec and Ontario, Honoré Mercier and Oliver Mowat, met at the first interprovincial conference.

Cette conférence signalait la renaissance d'un esprit de collaboration et d'entente entre les provinces de l'Ontario et de Québec, telle qu'elle existait dans les meilleures années du Canada-Uni.

Another Ontario Premier, the Honourable John Robarts, hosted the Confederation of Tomorrow Conference 80 years later. That conference, which opened exactly 20 years ago this week, provided Premier Daniel Johnson of Quebec the opportunity to explain Quebec's aspirations to Canadians from across the country. It was widely regarded as having initiated the period of constitutional reform which led to the current accord.

More recently, in 1980, honourable members will recall that an Ontario select committee was struck to deal with the question of constitutional reform. The select committee concentrated on proposals to secure individual rights and to promote national reconciliation—proposals that are reflected in the 1982 Constitution Act and the 1987 constitutional accord.

The 1982 document accommodated many interests in our country and brought us a patriated Constitution with a Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The charter protected individual equality, aboriginal and minority language rights and our multicultural heritage.

Yet the constitutional reform of 1982 did not resolve the fundamental question of the place of Quebec within Canada.

It was in the spirit of trying to complete the unfinished business of 1982 and to rectify the omission of Quebec from our constitutional consensus that the first ministers agreed a year ago to discuss five items proposed by the Bourassa government as essential elements of an agreement.

It is my view that Premier Bourassa's proposals were consistent with the national interest. They were a constructive approach to the reconciliation of Quebec within Canada as a whole and the basis upon which the first ministers reached an agreement at Meech Lake.

This accord is a vital step in nation-building.

Cette entente répond aux inquiétudes des Québécois, tout en promettant à tous les Canadiens de saines relations intergouvernementales.

The accord secures the voice of Canadians from across the country in our central institutions and it does so, I believe, while preserving the

basic rights already enshrined in the Constitution.

We recognize that no consensus is perfect, but the accord does represent a solution in the best Canadian tradition. It is a viable accommodation. In both symbolic and practical terms, it is the kind of agreement that has characterized the building of this country.

The entrenchment of the 1987 constitutional accord will remove one of the main barriers to a constructive approach by the whole country to the political and economic challenges ahead of us. The accord unblocks the constitutional reform. When it is enshrined, it will establish a new confidence in reform among all Canadians and a new attention to the Constitution.

This accord should not be seen as the last effort at amending the Constitution. The accord's passage will make possible initiatives on related constitutional issues. We propose a select committee with the twin objectives of completing past commitments, assessing the terms of the accord in the light of the need for national reconciliation and looking forward to the needs of the future.

Constitutions must be living documents, fashioned with the informed participation of all interested citizens. The hearings on the constitutional accord are of vital importance for this province in its participation in national affairs. This government is committed to a process that is open and accessible—a process which respects the right of all individuals and groups to express their views.

I welcome the opportunity for all Ontarians to participate in this significant development in Canada's future.

STOMACH BITTERS

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I want to inform the House of the government's intention to revoke section 60 of regulation 581 under the Liquor Licence Act in order to take stomach bitters off retail store shelves and restrict their sale to government liquor stores.

As members know, stomach bitters have always been exempted from the requirement for sale in Liquor Control Board of Ontario stores because they were unpalatable and considered to have some value as a digestive aid. For years, this exemption caused little concern and even fewer problems but in recent years stomach bitters have become the available and affordable drink of choice of some people.

I am sure the members are also aware of a Toronto coroner's jury recommendation on

Monday that the sale of bitters be restricted to the LCBO.

Even though the jury found that consumption of bitters may have been only incidental to the hit-and-run death of the man in question, its recommendation to remove bitters from unrestricted sale is a reflection of growing community concern. This government must be responsive to that concern.

I am sure no one in this House is so naïve as to think that the removal of bitters from retail store shelves will significantly alter this human tragedy. The real problem is alcohol abuse, not bitters.

1350

Alcohol is a controlled substance in Ontario and bitters has rapidly evolved from being an obscure digestive aid sold in small quantities to become one of the major sources of cheap and available liquor for some individuals. The time has come to bring bitters under control.

The regulatory changes will require that all stomach bitters be removed from retail store shelves as soon as reasonably possible. A reasonable phase-out period for store sales is required to give manufacturers and importers time to reposition their products and follow through with the Liquor Control Board of Ontario's listings procedure. As well, importers, distributors and retailers must all be given a fair period of time in which to dispose of existing stock and arrange for the new distribution process.

TRANSFER PAYMENTS

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I would like to announce details of the increase in operating funds for Ontario hospitals in fiscal year 1988-89, as the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) reported last Wednesday.

In keeping with this government's commitment to continued sound fiscal planning while maintaining the integrity of our hospital system, I am pleased to announce that Ontario hospitals will receive an overall increase of about 6.9 per cent in operating funds for the next fiscal year. The hospitals will receive a basic grant increase of about 4.4 per cent in this period. In addition, the budget increase allotted by my ministry will feature a further 2.5 per cent for growth in hospital programs.

The base on which the increase will be applied has yet to be determined. That will be done once the ministry and the Ontario Hospital Association complete the review of the disposition of funds normally allocated by the ministry for the

employer contributions required by the hospitals of Ontario pension plan.

The 2.5 per cent increment for growth in hospital programs will be used for new programs to be started in the next fiscal year as well as ministry-approved programs started or expanded in 1987-88. The funds will be used for growth in life-support programs in designated teaching hospitals and other major hospitals. These programs include renal dialysis, cardiovascular surgery, chemotherapy, total parenteral nutrition, interocular implants and perinatal health.

The increase for growth will also include funding for workload increases due to hospitals treating more patients and an additional one per cent for hospitals with fewer than 50 beds.

The increase will enable hospitals to meet inflationary pressures as well as the usual costs associated with growth. We would also hope that hospitals will be among those groups that will be submitting proposals for the special programs referred to by the Premier (Mr. Peterson) when he announced the multi-year, \$100-million innovative health strategies fund.

The increases I am announcing today will bring total ministry spending on hospitals for fiscal 1988-89 to approximately \$5.4 billion.

NIAGARA REGIONAL POLICE

Hon. Mrs. Smith: As members may be aware, the chief of police of the Niagara Regional Police Force this morning announced that he would not be laying charges as a result of the extensive investigation into allegations of wrongdoing within that force. I had earlier indicated that a determination as to whether or not charges would be laid was a precondition to any consideration of a public inquiry into the force.

The board of commissioners of police, as a result of the determination that charges would not be laid, has renewed its request that an inquiry into allegations of improprieties by members of the Niagara Regional Police Force be conducted. A decision has been made to accede to that request.

I believe that such a course of action is now in the public interest. It will be necessary to consult with the Niagara regional board to determine the appropriate terms of reference for the public inquiry. We will do this with all possible haste, having regard to the need of careful delineation of the scope of this inquiry.

RESPONSES

SELECT COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

Mr. B. Rae: I appreciate the statement made by the Premier (Mr. Peterson) today with respect to Meech Lake. I have to say to him, however, that I think most people would regard with scepticism his talk about participation. The fact of the matter is that he himself has participated twice in an event which was attended by nobody other than himself and 10 other first ministers. To talk now of participation smacks to me of some pretty hollow rhetoric.

We have a reality which is, in my view, a most unfortunate one where we have basically been left with a complete *fait accompli* by the Premier and by the other first ministers. They have negotiated one agreement and then proceeded to make some minor changes in other negotiated ones.

Native people were not at the table. The representatives of the Yukon and the Northwest Territories were not at the table. Indeed, it is fair to say that no one else in the political process was at the table. To turn around now and say that the establishment of this committee is going to be some kind of an exercise in participatory democracy is a rather sad joke in the light of the reality that the Premier and other first ministers have signed the document and basically told us to take it on a take-it-or-leave-it basis.

I can tell the Premier that is not the way in which we intend to pursue this; that there are changes in the accord which are necessary; that we discussed those changes when he came back to the Legislature twice in the spring of last year; that he knew full well that a minority Legislature would have led to a quite different kind of participation than the one we are permitted in the current circumstances of the House.

I can say to the Premier that if he regards this as any kind of example of participatory democracy, he has a very different understanding of democracy and participation than we do on this side.

TRANSFER PAYMENTS

Mr. Reville: Responding first to the announcement of the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan) of increased operating funds for Ontario hospitals, may I say that the big numbers and the clever arrangements of percentages do not disguise the fact that this is very much a business-as-usual approach to a health care system which is not working well enough. Nothing has been done to address the imbalance

between the funding of teaching and nonteaching hospitals or to assist hospitals in improving their accountability to our communities. It is altogether a rather disappointing statement.

STOMACH BITTERS

Mr. Reville: Turning to the statement of the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Wrye), may I say I am very pleased to see that the minister has taken the action he has taken, getting the bitters off the counters of the corner stores, where they have become a magnet for those who are vulnerable.

I should point out that while we are aware of the most recent coroner's jury recommendation, members of the House will know that previous coroners' juries had made the same recommendation that the government is now belatedly implementing. My colleague the member for Welland-Thorold (Mr. Swart) and I were raising this matter in this House two years ago. I regret to say that we have had to have further deaths before the government could see its way clear to take the appropriate action it has now taken.

NIAGARA REGIONAL POLICE

Mr. Swart: I want to reply to the comments by the Solicitor General (Mrs. Smith). The first thing I want to do is to commend her and congratulate her for proceeding with the public inquiry.

It is five years since I first called for a public inquiry in this House. Her government cannot be faulted for not implementing it during those first three years. I suggest it can for the last two. I suggest to the minister that a lot of problems that have existed in that force over the last two, three or four years would not have existed if we had had that public inquiry when it was first asked for.

I know the great majority of the police officers themselves will welcome this public inquiry. A great majority of them, of course, are good police officers. They will welcome this opportunity to have themselves cleared, and all of the other officers, but those who may be bad eggs within the force and should not be there will then be revealed through this inquiry. I think this is the final move towards improving the public image and the reality of an improved police force in Niagara.

One final thing I say to the Solicitor General is that this public inquiry must be real. It cannot just be a facade; it must be a real public inquiry by an independent head, perhaps an independent jury.

1400

SELECT COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

Mr. Brandt: I too would like to comment on the statement of the Premier (Mr. Peterson) with respect to the establishment of a select committee on constitutional reform. I find somewhat surprising the comments the Premier made on the last page of his document where he indicates, "This government is committed to a process that is open and accessible—a process which respects the rights of all individuals and groups to express their views."

I say this because it was our party that pressed, I think in a very positive way, for such a committee to be established. There was no comment about that in the Premier's release today, but the fact of the matter is that we did call for such a committee to be established, I think for good and valid reasons.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: He does not like it.

Mr. Brandt: The Leader of the Opposition (Mr. B. Rae), the Premier says, does not like it. The reason the Leader of the Opposition does not like it is that he has the same concerns I have about the way this committee is going to be set up.

Is the committee going to listen to those groups that feel they have been alienated in some way or left out of the process as it relates to the Meech Lake accord? Are their views going to be heard? Is this going to be a committee that will accept any amendments? What will the process be for forwarding these amendments to the other premiers and the Prime Minister of this country if, after study, they are proven to be valid?

We recognize full well that Ontario as the largest province has a particularly sensitive role to play. Former premiers and nation builders in this province, such as Premier John Robarts and Premier William Davis, played that role in a very sensitive, careful and thoughtful fashion because they recognized in many instances that what was good for the rest of the country was good for Ontario as well.

We agree with the Premier in his statement that Quebec has to be brought in as a full working partner of Confederation, but we say to him that it is absolutely paramount that this committee work in an effective way to get input from native groups, women, the territories and others who want to express their concerns about the accord and to have their views heard and then carried forward in a positive way to the next stage of this process.

TRANSFER PAYMENTS

Mr. Eves: I would like to respond to the statement by the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan). What the minister has really told us here today is that her basic increase to hospitals at large in Ontario is 4.4 per cent. If a hospital has a particular program that qualifies in one of these specifications she has laid out on page 2 of her statement, then it may be lucky enough to get some of the other 2.5 per cent. I want to make it clear that what the minister is really telling the House and the hospitals in Ontario today is that they are getting a basic increase for inflation of 4.4 per cent.

I note that in the fourth paragraph on page 1 of the minister's statement she makes reference to "once the ministry and the Ontario Hospital Association complete the review of the disposition of the funds normally allocated by the ministry for the employer contributions required by the hospitals of Ontario pension plan." I hope the minister will take into account the concerns of hospital workers expressed last week in the media with respect to that plan and how their funds are being used.

This statement is really nothing more than a statement by her predecessor which made a great to-do about hospital capital allocations. Then we found out that what he had really done was take the 1985 capital allocation and flat-line it for the next five or six years. We do not think that is acceptable over here. This does not provide an increase of funding. It just accommodates for inflation.

STOMACH BITTERS

Mr. Runciman: We on this side are naturally pleased with the announcement of the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Wrye) with respect to the withdrawal of bitters from grocery stores. I guess we also have to be critical, as we have been over some period of time along with the New Democratic Party, about the delay in taking this kind of action. I know the minister's predecessor took this to cabinet some time ago, but in my view it was delayed for purely crass political reasons last summer. After three coroners' inquests, we finally have action. They failed to take action last year because it drew attention to their ludicrous policy of putting beer and wine in grocery stores. They have now backed away from that. We are very pleased and we welcome the action, but it comes at least three deaths too late.

TRANSFER PAYMENTS

Mr. Harris: With reference to the statement of the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan), I was surprised there was no operating grant announcement for the new joint hospital in Nipissing. This is a hospital that has been sitting there waiting for the last five years. When is she going to announce that funding and the capital to go along with it, if, as she says, she increases the capital?

ORAL QUESTIONS

SELECT COMMITTEE ON
CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

Mr. B. Rae: There is a question about Meech Lake I would like to ask the Premier. He talks in his statement today about the importance of "informed participation of all interested citizens" and that he welcomes "the opportunity for all Ontarians to participate in this significant development in Canada's future." Is the Premier saying when he says this that he anticipates the possibility that the committee will recommend some changes to the document he signed, and if that is the case he will accept those changes?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I will tell the member what I anticipate. I anticipate this will be widely discussed in this province. The committee may make a decision to go and have consultations in other provinces. They will want to gather up the best information they can about the national mood and the consequences of the Meech Lake accord, legally, politically and in terms of our relationships with the rest of the country.

If they come to the conclusion that there is some serious error that could be fixed, then obviously they will make that recommendation to us. They will assess that in the light of the political realities of the country, the positions of the other provinces, and they will make their recommendations to us on that basis. I look forward to their advice. That is why we are having the committee hearings.

Mr. B. Rae: Perhaps the Premier can explain a couple of what I think most people would now regard as rather serious problems with the accord. If I can ask him to address one, I wonder if he can explain to the House and to the provinces, as they begin this process of participation, how it is that the creation of new provinces and the admission of them into the family of Confederation as full participating members will now require the approval of all 10 provinces, which, as the Premier will know, is completely different from the situation up to 1987?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The Leader of the Opposition is right. Presumably, the committee members will look at that question, they will have advice from all quarters and they will give advice to the government on that matter. I am not sure what the problem is that the member is raising.

Mr. B. Rae: The problem I am raising is that the Premier has participated in the process, a basically secret process that he was involved in over two nights, which resulted in an agreement with which many people have problems, including those who expressed their concerns at the federal level when they moved motions to amend that were not accepted by Mr. Mulroney because Mr. Mulroney said, "The deal is signed and that is it." If we have the same attitude here in Ontario, what we are going through is just going to be there for show, not real.

I am asking the Premier to explain why he personally signed a document that basically means that the Yukon and Northwest Territories will not be admitted as provinces because it gives a veto to every single province in the country.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I say with great respect to my friend that he is not necessarily correct. He is correct in terms of the new rules that would be applied to the admission of new provinces, but he is not correct in prejudging the results of that. I do not think his interpretation in that regard is fair.

Let me carry on for a moment. The member suggests some secret meetings and the suggestion that it was signed in stealth in the middle of the night. Let me tell my honourable friend, and I am sure he followed this debate—starting with *Maîtriser l'avenir*, a document put forward by the Quebec Liberal Party—and as someone who follows these matters, I am sure he was informed about it, as this went through rigorous public discussion for a year or two. Lots of people had an opportunity to express their points of view. I admit there were many who were astounded that a deal was at all possible. There are lots of us who had input into that particular document.

I am not standing in front of the member telling him it is perfect. It has to be assessed in terms of its effect on our future.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Can it be changed?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Of course it can be changed. In response to my honourable friend's question, albeit from the benches, of course it can be changed.

The unanimous veto in the accord applies only to a very limited number of issues, i.e., institutional reform. The general amending formula still applies to the vast majority of the

items under constitutional reform. I invite the member to look at it in detail.

I have heard a lot of people express reservations about the accord, and I say to them as charitably as I can, I think some of them do not understand exactly what is in it. They are reacting to some perhaps quick assessment that is not accurate. I say to the member, we will now have the time to debate it through, as his federal colleagues did, and he will put forward any ideas he and his members may have to improve it. They will ascertain whether it is possible to do that and then make a decision whether to support it or not to support it.

Mr. B. Rae: If I may say so, the Premier is starting out the process of consultation with a rather condescending, patronizing approach in which he says that people who disagree with the Premier are uninformed. That is really a refreshing way in which to start out this process.

1410

TRADE WITH UNITED STATES

Mr. B. Rae: My question to the Premier has to do with the question of free trade. I gather the Premier has now said outside this place that it is not the intention of the government to enact the sections of the free trade agreement having to do with the distribution and sale of wine. Can we take it from this statement that it is the intention of the government not to enact any legislation or orders in council which would have the effect of implementing the free trade agreement?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: At the moment, I am not aware of any other areas specifically that require complementary provincial legislation. We have asked the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) to do a complete constitutional audit in that regard and give us his advice. At the moment, I do not have that advice. The member will know that, unlike himself, I like to think these things through very carefully before I just jump out and then have to change my position 16 times as my honourable friend does.

Mr. B. Rae: The Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) started this style last night. The style of personal insult is one that I think ill becomes the government. It ill becomes the Premier of this province and the Deputy Premier. If that is the way they want to start conducting the business of the province, fine, but let us be quite clear who is setting the tone around here. It is the Premier, and if that is the way he wants it to go, that is the way it will be.

I would like to ask the Premier a question specifically with regard to the question of the

auto pact, which he did not choose to mention in his comments yesterday. Can we take it from what the Premier is saying that he is prepared to take steps with respect to wine—that is, prepared to say that Ontario will not move—but that that is as far as it goes? What precisely is he prepared to do on behalf of those auto workers, hundreds of thousands of whom heard his very clear message in the campaign that there can be no agreement that guts the auto pact? He agrees the agreement does in fact gut the auto pact.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I say to my honourable friend that we are looking at those areas where we have jurisdiction. The auto pact, as the member knows, was originally negotiated by two sovereign governments: the federal government of Canada with the federal government of the United States. The province was not involved in that particular negotiation.

Now we have honed down the issues. One at least we know is under provincial jurisdiction. I have said very clearly that the wine provisions in that agreement would wipe out our wine industry and we are not prepared to accept that. We have sat down with the wine industry, the grape growers. We have worked out with them a package we think is acceptable to keep them competitive, to bring them into a better position than they are at the present time. We believe, assuming the federal government can negotiate this properly, which the member may want to raise questions about, that we can save the industry, that we can keep it competitive and respect our multinational trading obligations, something my friend opposite obviously does not respect from the comments he has made so far.

Mr. B. Rae: The Premier will know that there are five weeks to go before the agreement is to be signed by both the federal government and by the President of the United States. The Premier has announced one step which Ontario is in a sense not prepared to take. That is the only announcement he has made with regard to this agreement which has any impact on the agreement, apart from the statements and speeches he has made with regard to the overall agreement.

Time is running out. The House will be adjourning in the middle of December and, for all we know, in view of the timetable put forward by the government House leader, we will be lucky if we get back here in 1988. Can the Premier tell us what other specific steps Ontario plans to take to make sure that the free trade agreement simply does not happen?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I will respond to the question. I have been asked this on many

occasions by the member and by his colleagues. We do not announce steps that we want to take if in fact we cannot take the steps. It requires a very thoughtful look at where all of our jurisdiction lies.

We have done that. We have done that with respect to wine, and that is the one area where it is clear, in my view at least, it is under provincial jurisdiction. It is not clear in other areas that legislation for implementation would in fact be required.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Your party misled the public.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The member's friend to his right is still quite bitter about September 10, and I can understand that, but he keeps yapping about the same thing. I say I do not think the public believes that. He may—and I understand the personal bitterness he is going through at the present time—but I think we are exercising the power and responsibility we have in a constructive and positive way.

We will continue to do that. We will continue to make our views known. As the members know, we are starting meetings this afternoon and this evening with our federal colleagues in that regard, but they know very clearly that we are not prepared to implement those provisions of the free trade agreement with respect to our wine industry.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

Mr. Eves: My question is to the Premier. He will be aware that a number of different groups in Canadian society, such as native groups and women's groups, as well as prominent Canadians such as former Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau and Senator Eugene Forsey, have come out in opposition to and have concerns about certain parts of the Meech Lake accord.

He will also be aware that closer examination of the provisions of the accord has demonstrated some areas of very crucial concern, especially as they relate to the opting-out provision and the implications of declaring Quebec a distinct society.

Given the concerns that have been raised and given that members of his own party have expressed similar concerns, would the Premier be prepared to state publicly and uncategorically here today that the select committee on constitutional reform, which will be appointed today, will have as part of its mandate the requirement that it propose and adopt and be able to adopt meaningful and constructive amendments to the

Meech Lake accord where individual members and their own free conscience—without a party whip vote; a free vote—think it is required? Will the Premier agree to that here today as a means of strengthening our country and the accord itself?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I do not believe it will strengthen our country, and the answer to the question is no.

Mr. Eves: Why would the Premier not be prepared to commit himself to a free vote by the members of his party on such a very, very important procedure? I presume the reason this committee is being appointed is so that this Legislature and the elected members in this Legislature can have some meaningful contribution to this process. I presume it is not just a sham he is throwing up to meet a commitment he made several months ago, after he has already made a deal.

I am not sure that the Premier recognizes the importance of this accord. It was conceived in greater haste than the free trade agreement and has some greater implications for the future of this country.

I ask again, will the Premier agree to grant the committee that right, and will he indeed acquiesce to the recommendations and findings of an all-party committee in this matter?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: We discussed this on many occasions before, the matter of having a committee hearing. We think it is important. Some of the other provinces have chosen to do the same thing.

One can look at the accord, and I agree with my honourable friend there is lots of difference of opinion, including in our own party; and his own party, obviously, because he takes a different view, I gather, from his federal leader on this matter.

I recognize this, and this is a matter for all Canadians, but I tell my honourable friend as well, as frankly as I can, I am not prepared to opt out of my responsibility to try to build a stronger country and I believe, on balance, that the accord is in the interests of a strong and united country.

Mr. Eves: The Premier will be aware that earlier this month Jean Chrétien, a co-signator of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and a former Liberal cabinet minister in Ottawa, urged the Premier to move an amendment to the accord that will declare, without question and without fear of judicial override or disagreement, that the Charter of Rights has supremacy over the Meech Lake accord. As a straightforward and common-sense request, it is an amendment that I think

every member of this House, every Ontarian and indeed every Canadian supports.

1420

Will the Premier make the commitment today that these and other amendments that may be made in committee will be adopted to protect, without question, our Charter of Rights?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The honourable member's question points out what a difficult debate, indeed what a strange debate in many ways, this whole discussion has become when he quotes Jean Chrétien as an authority on the matter, and I end up quoting Brian Mulroney. It just shows how bad things have got in this country.

I understand the opinion of M. Chrétien and a variety of others, and I have applied my mind to this question as well. I believe, as I said, that on balance it is very much in the national interest. I invite the member, as he gets his leader to appoint him to that committee, to travel the country and get a sense of the country. He should figure out the ramifications of this. My honourable friend may come back with a little different view than he has at the present time. This can be an extremely positive experience for everyone. It can be an extremely constructive exercise in nation building.

I think the honourable member will want to ask himself the consequences of putting forward amendments that could wreck the deal. He will ask himself that personal question before he puts his imprimatur on his recommendations, whatever they happen to be.

Mr. Speaker: It is time for a new question.

Mrs. Marland: I wonder why we are entering into this debate at all, if amendments will not even be considered.

Mr. Speaker: The question is to which minister?

CHILD CARE

Mrs. Marland: My question is to the Minister of Community and Social Services. As this minister knows, the opting-out provisions of the Meech Lake accord jeopardize the possibility of a national day care program, a consequence I am sure the minister must consider very serious.

Will the minister withhold his support for the Meech Lake accord until the select committee on constitutional reform has an opportunity to report on the possible impact this opting-out provision will have on a national day care plan?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: The honourable member may be aware of the fact that on December 2 and 3, next week, social services ministers from

across the country will be meeting with the federal minister in Ottawa. At that time, we are going to be given the details of the national plan and the way in which it impacts on the various provinces, the various sections of the country.

I am obviously concerned about a national standard and national objectives, but I think the honourable member would also be aware that my first responsibility has to be to be able to put into place in Ontario, as we outlined last June, the program we think meets the needs of our citizens. I must say to her that if, in fact, I am presented with that kind of a proposal, I will support it.

Mrs. Marland: The minister is saying this meeting is taking place on December 2 and 3. I find that an interesting statement in the light of today's date, because in the *Toronto Star* on November 20 the minister stated that he would probably support the federal day care plan. He was, in fact, quoted as saying, "The signal we're getting from Ottawa is they're favourably disposed to what we want to do here in Ontario."

The minister having made that statement, I would like to ask him if he will tell this House what the specifics are that he heard from the federal government regarding the amount of funding, the time frame for the implementation and the scope of the federal program. If he does not have that information, I do not know how the minister can make the statement that what he hears is good.

Mr. Speaker: The member has already asked three questions.

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: I do not have the details the honourable member is requesting. My response at that time, and I will repeat it again, is that we have been given an understanding that the kinds of conditions Ontario set forward in its own program last June are generally acceptable to our federal colleagues. It was on that premise that I made the statement I did.

The honourable member will remember that we clearly identified what we intended to do with respect to access, affordability and wages, how we intended to deal with the profit-nonprofit problem and, more than anything else, as far as the federal government was concerned in terms of cost sharing, to allow Ontario sufficient flexibility to do all of these kinds of things.

What I am hearing, without knowing any of the details—I can quite candidly say to my honourable colleague, I do not know any more of the details than she does; if I did, I would share them with this House and with her—without knowing those details, the sense I am getting is that Ontario probably will not be very disappoint-

ed with the national proposal. I am hoping what I am hearing is correct. If what I am hearing is correct, I will support it.

Mrs. Marland: I suppose it is a matter of the interpretation of the word "hearing," because I do not know how the minister can hear and yet not know. It is interesting that he is choosing not to reveal any specifics on the federal day care plan, because obviously the negotiations are ongoing. I stress that he "chooses" not to reveal anything that is making him think the way he does, because earlier this week the Premier (Mr. Peterson) set a precedent when he revealed details about this government's position with respect to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade negotiations.

Again, I ask the minister to reveal the details of these negotiations. I would also ask what his intention is with respect to allowing the maximum flow-through of all federal moneys to the entire day care sector when the federal program is made public.

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: I am not sure I fully appreciate the last part of the honourable member's question, but if she is asking if I will give a guarantee on behalf of our government that all of the moneys which come to us for that reason will be used for that purpose, I can tell her that my cabinet colleagues have made that very clear.

Mrs. Marland: To the entire day care sector?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: Yes, to the entire day care sector. That is the point I have made.

The honourable member will be aware of the fact that two of the significant changes we wish to make and have announced we will make, to the extent it is possible, are: first, providing direct grants to all centres that are now in existence and in the future for only the nonprofit; and, second, that we move from needs testing to income testing for all families. That is the desire of Ontario.

Under the present cost-sharing arrangement, we would not be able to carry out either of those initiatives in the profit sector. We cannot do that. It is that kind of flexibility we have advised our federal colleagues is so important and necessary for Ontario. That is the reality of Ontario. That is the reality we have to deal with in Ontario. Roughly half our families and, obviously, half the children who currently use the two sectors of the system have to be, in our judgement, treated fairly and equitably. So if that is what the honourable member means, the answer is yes, but I need that flexibility on behalf of all members in this House and on behalf of all the

citizens of Ontario. At the present time, we do not have it.

UNIVERSITY FUNDING

Mr. R. F. Johnston: My question is to the Treasurer, in the absence of the Minister of Colleges and Universities (Mrs. McLeod), and because the Treasurer has been speaking so much lately about the high standards of funding given to the universities of this province.

I have just shared with the Treasurer a memo sent out last week from the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations to all its member associates and all the universities in the province. OCUFA indicates that the overcrowding problem is now so severe that it is getting requests back from their staff faculties about whether the staff is liable in case there should be any problem with a fire or other kind of emergency caused by the overcrowding.

The memo, as I share with the House, indicates they have a legal opinion that there might be liability. They advise the following steps: contact university safety authorities, contact university administrators to attempt to rearrange classes, contact or have faculty association contact municipal building and fire inspectors, and cancel classes.

Can the Treasurer please tell me why it is that we have come to this point in our universities, if he is providing the kind of funding that is dealing with the overcrowding situation?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I am providing adequate funding to look after the students who present themselves and are accepted at our provincially assisted universities. On the other hand, I think the advice given by OCUFA to its members is reasonable, up to the point where it suggests they unilaterally cancel classes. It seems to me the responsibility would lie with the administration of the institution.

In the case where there is a problem, we have statutes of the province that can obviously be brought into play. I sincerely hope that is the course of action that would be taken and that the administration would bear the responsibility in this regard.

1430

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I realize the Treasurer has just received instant legal advice on this. I do not want to debate the niceties of whether their legal advice is appropriate or not. The fact of the matter is that day in and day out in our universities now the building code and the fire code of the province are being ignored in order to conduct classes on a day-to-day basis. Somebody

is going to be liable, including this government, if there is a major tragedy.

Will the Treasurer guarantee us that he will provide enough money, and explain how he is going to do that, to make sure the building code and fire code of this province are adhered to in our universities, as they should be, now in this year and especially next year when the Ontario Schools, Intermediate and Senior Divisions program means there will be many more students going to universities than there are presently?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I believe the universities are adequately provided for, not to the extent of services the members of this House would wish, but on balance with other substantial responsibilities we have, we feel the universities are adequately provided for.

CONFISCATED FIREARMS

Mr. Eves: I have a question of the Solicitor General. Recent reports indicate that a number of municipal police forces in Ontario engage in the practice of selling confiscated firearms to weapons dealers. Is the minister aware that section 18 of the Police Act permits police forces legally to sell confiscated firearms?

Hon. Mrs. Smith: I thank the member for the question. Yes, I have only recently become aware of this practice and that it is in fact legal. We have no present universally applied directive or policy in this regard and I will be looking into this matter.

Mr. Eves: Given the realities of the situation, there is the distinct possibility that some of these firearms could fall back into the hands of the criminal element in society. Fortunately, the overwhelming majority of police forces in Ontario voluntarily choose to destroy rather than sell these firearms. I hope the minister will agree with me that this is too serious an issue to be left to choice. Can I then count on her support for my proposed amendment to the Police Act this afternoon to eliminate the sale of these firearms by municipal police forces?

Hon. Mrs. Smith: The member will be happy to know that I will be looking into this for myself and without his assistance.

Mr. Eves: I am sorry. You are too late.

Hon. Mrs. Smith: He is free, of course, to enter anything he wants.

I advise the member that the Ontario Provincial Police, which does come directly under the venue of the province, does have a policy on this and does destroy guns. This policy, which has been in effect for some time, would present a

reasonable starting ground for discussion with the police forces that have not already adopted it. I foresee very little trouble in probably getting their opinion that this should be a universal method.

CONVERSION OF RENTAL ACCOMMODATION

Mr. Breaugh: I have a question for the Minister of Housing concerning the conversion of apartment units into hotel units at 25 Wellesley Street East here in Toronto. She has known about this for some time since the bill was introduced. Can it possibly be true that the reason she has even ceased to investigate this, even though she knows these are apartment units now already converted into hotel units, is that in a year and a half her ministry has been unable to find an apt description for a hotel room?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: The legislation dealing with the conversion of apartments into apartment hotel or apartment suites does look into the whole question of definition. I am not aware of exactly the decision that has been made at 25 Wellesley Street, but if there are any concerns about any buildings the member knows of, he should please bring them forward to us and we will look into them.

Mr. Breaugh: I am going to start looking for a staff job in the ministry.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: That is what we understand.

Interjections.

Mr. Breaugh: Put your money where your mouth is, Nixon.

Mr. Jackson: And then there were 18.

Mr. Breaugh: Paul Coffey and I are in the same league.

Mr. Speaker: Supplementary.

Mr. Breaugh: When the government introduced this, it said it was aware of the general problem. The minister of the day said: "We want to act now. We want to act immediately." These people are under fire in a number of ways—rent review, being evicted; 20 of the 46 units are already hotel units. Now they are advertising openly, publicly. The government can see exactly what they are doing. There is no question. They have already converted these apartments into hotel units. How does the minister explain to these people—and I have copies of their letters, so I know the ministry is aware of it—that the problem here is that with all the minister's wisdom and all of her staff, she

cannot define a regulation that defines a hotel room?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I will make no comment on the honourable member's job prospects with the Ministry of Housing.

Regarding the question of the apartment hotels, let me just say that we are very concerned about people not losing their accommodation and we are committed to making sure they do not lose their accommodation. There are, however, a variety of ways of describing accommodation: hotel suites, apartment hotels and apartments. The member will know there is a legitimate role for apartment hotels in a city like Toronto to which people come and where they stay for significant periods of time. We are looking at the matter of 25 Wellesley Street and we will make sure that people are protected.

ONTARIO HYDRO

Mr. Runciman: I have a question for the Minister of Energy. Yesterday the minister implied, in response to a question I posed, that the Environmental Assessment Board has a say in determining the future energy needs of the province. He knows, or he should know in any event, it is Ontario Hydro and his own ministry that are responsible for this. The Environmental Assessment Board has nothing to do with it. Ontario Hydro has been telling us the future energy needs of this province will be outlined in its demand-supply options study, which we all know is now more than a year overdue. It has been reported that this study was completed last summer. What does the minister say? Is it complete or not and when will it be released to the public?

Hon. Mr. Wong: I understand the Hydro board will be reviewing the DSOS shortly, if it has not done so already, and I expect we will have it for the House soon.

Mr. Runciman: I do not know what "soon" means, another year perhaps, but over the past year we have had conflicting statements from the Premier (Mr. Peterson), who says there is no crisis, and the chairman of Ontario Hydro, who says there is a crisis regarding the future energy needs of the province. Will the new minister settle this dispute? If he will not freeze Hydro's activities, as I asked yesterday, will he at least tell us whether his government intends to follow the recommendations reported to be in the demand-supply options study, and that is to build another multibillion-dollar nuclear power plant?

Hon. Mr. Wong: In order to answer the honourable member's question properly, as I

indicated yesterday, it is necessary to have all of the information in order to make such large billion-dollar decisions which cover such a long time span.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Mr. Callahan: I have a question for the Minister of Community and Social Services.

Mr. Jackson: This is what is keeping you out of cabinet.

Mr. Callahan: It is the members' time. We will wait.

Mr. Jackson: Oh, now you want to be Speaker. Thanks.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Callahan: This government has consistently indicated that food banks are not the solution for providing adequate food for those people who are unable to afford proper food for themselves or their families. The minister has also been on record as favouring some other proposal. I recently asked the minister if he would discuss with his cabinet colleagues—more specifically, the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell)—the possibility of some plan being allowed through the marketing boards to provide for surplus goods to be sold at cost to some permanent facility that could then distribute the food in a more humane and perhaps more dignified way to people who are unable to pay for it themselves.

I wonder whether the minister has had an opportunity to confer with his colleagues and perhaps could report to the House whether that is possible and whether he would consider developing a plan of that type.

1440

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: I have spoken to the Minister of Agriculture and Food about the potential reaction of marketing boards to allowing farmers to produce beyond their quota and that excess production being made available, for example, to food co-ops, of which lower-income—and I said “lower,” not “low”—families might become members. The minister's response was that he was not sure himself how they would react to it but that he as a minister would be quite prepared to discuss it with them. He has had no initial negative reaction to it.

It has not gone any farther than that, but I would be quite prepared to co-operate with my colleague in Agriculture and Food to see whether there is any merit in that and whether we can get together the food producers and the food users in

this province in a way that is helpful to both of them.

CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

Mr. Wildman: I have a question to the Attorney General in his capacity as the Minister responsible for native affairs in the province. Would the minister agree that the Meech Lake constitutional accord is indeed a setback for the recognition of the constitutional rights of the aboriginals of this country and this province and for the guarantee of Indian self-government?

Hon. Mr. Scott: I am not of that view now, but I would be glad to hear the honourable member's view.

Mr. Wildman: Can the minister clarify what his view is? It seems to me that in the previous constitutional amending formula, even with that formula, we were unable to reach a definition of aboriginal rights through four conferences or to have an agreement of all the first ministers of this country.

Now, with the unanimity rule, would the minister not agree that it is even more unlikely that we will be able to reach a definition of aboriginal rights and an entrenchment of those rights and the rights to Indian self-government in the Constitution of this country?

Hon. Mr. Scott: I would ask the member to observe two points. First, there is a notwithstanding provision in the Meech Lake accord which applies to protect all existing constitutional or other rights of aboriginal people, notwithstanding what the Meech Lake accord may say. That is a very full protection indeed.

Second, on the question of general constitutional reform, he well knows that the native people felt very aggrieved that their efforts to obtain a constitutional amendment respecting self-government was not achieved last year.

One of the practical reasons I believe it was not achieved is, as the member knows, since 1981 Quebec did not participate in the constitutional renewal process until the renewed Constitution that Prime Minister Trudeau had promised that province was to be made available. I believe if Quebec had seen fit to participate in that process, we might have had a different result. One of the good things about Meech Lake is that Quebec is now participating in the constitutional process as a result of this renewal.

FUNDING FOR HIGHWAYS

Mr. Wiseman: I have a question to the Minister of Transportation. On page 5 of the

Provincial Auditor's report, which was tabled this week, it says:

"The provincial highways program is to provide and maintain a highway system that will satisfy the needs of the people of Ontario. Expenditure on capital and construction activities totalled \$214.7 million in 1987. In our view the determination of construction priorities was questionable in several instances. We also felt that some priorities should be established on a province-wide basis; all are now decided on a regional basis."

In view of the fact that many rural municipalities throughout Ontario feel their highway networks are not satisfactory to them or to the people who use them, would the minister tell us here today that he will see to it that they have additional funds in 1988 so they can go ahead and plan now to upgrade those roads and not let them go further behind?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: I think the figures the honourable member mentioned were in fact from the 1986 auditor's report. The figure he mentioned is, I think, the highest capital budget the Ministry of Transportation has ever seen, certainly in the last 44 years, as a percentage. We thank the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) for his generosity in meeting those needs and addressing those needs, and we are working on 1988.

I could tell the member further that some of the changes we did make when we took over this responsibility was to work very closely with all the municipalities across this province in longer-term planning and funding of their and our mutual needs.

Mr. Wiseman: I go back to the Provincial Auditor's report, which says the provincial highways program is to provide and maintain a highway system that will be satisfactory to the people of Ontario. I ask the minister to talk to his House leader, who I know has visited many of the municipalities that I have. I have read some of the reports the reeves have sent me, with a copy to the minister's House leader, at which time they said they are not satisfied with the amount of money they have and that their road networks are falling farther and farther behind.

The minister did mention the \$215 million that was put into the program in 1986, but most of that money, as he knows, did not go into rural or county roads. The Ontario Good Roads Association convention is coming up. Would he consider again letting those people know he is going to put an infusion of fresh dollars in, so that they can plan their work for 1988?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: The member would know that the figure he is mentioning is the highways capital allotment to the ministry, not the amount of money we transfer to the municipalities, which is in excess of \$1 billion in total from the ministry.

Certainly, I would be the first to suggest that we inherited a very fine highway and road network in this province, and it has improved dramatically in the last two and a half years.

POLLUTION CONTROL

Mrs. Grier: I have a question of the Minister of the Environment. Yesterday the Provincial Auditor noted that in 1985 the Minister of the Environment had had information on only 147 of the 300 companies that discharge directly into Ontario's waterways. Of that 147, only 39 reported results of toxicity tests, and of those 39, 31 failed the test.

Earlier this session I drew to the House's attention the ministry's 1986 report on industrial direct discharges. In 1986, the number of companies reporting had increased from 147 to 154. Can the minister tell the House how many of the 154 reported toxicity tests to the ministry?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: As the member may be aware from her detailed knowledge of this, toxicity tests essentially apply only to very specific industries. For instance, the pulp and paper industry is one category of mill which is involved in toxicity tests. It is the one I would say is the most often used in terms of the toxicity test.

The member would know that as a result of identified problems with this particular problem, that is the toxicity test, we appointed an expert committee of three individuals, scientists and engineers. These people are experts from universities and from the private sector who have travelled to places such as Finland and Sweden, across Canada and in the United States to determine the best method of avoiding the kind of toxicity which is produced.

I am pleased to report to the member that some of the initial results they have been looking at, some of the initial programs that have been put in place in other countries, have in fact offered some hope that we can avoid even producing these toxins by changing the process.

1450

Mrs. Grier: I tried to ask a very direct question that required merely a number as a response rather than an explanation of what toxicity tests were.

Mr. Speaker: Try it again.

Mrs. Grier: I will try as many times as I have to, but we on this side of the House are finding the minister's rambling and imprecise answers very tiresome.

As a result of a morning's work on his 1986 report—because he does not tell us very directly how many toxicity tests were performed or what the results were—we find that of the 154 companies that reported in 1986, 50 reported toxicity tests and 12 passed. So we are no better off in 1986 than we were in 1985, and only eight prosecutions were launched in 1986. Can the minister, who boasts so frequently that we have the toughest environmental laws in North America, tell the House when he is going to begin enforcing those regulations?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: The member would know—again, she is expert in this field—that the problem is the system. She has identified the problem. I have identified the problem. That is precisely why I have brought in the program called the municipal-industrial strategy for abatement. The problem is that we have guidelines at the present time—

Mr. Jackson: It does not include the secondary effluents.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: The member who interrupts would know that his government put guidelines in effect. Why, I do not know, because whoever puts them in effect knows they cannot be enforced.

Mrs. Grier: Enforce the guidelines.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: You cannot enforce guidelines in the court; you can enforce standards. The whole purpose of the municipal-industrial strategy for abatement is to get standards we can enforce.

As part of her question, the member mentioned prosecutions. I can tell her that in 1984, there were 54 prosecutions and 57 convictions. Last year, there were 179 prosecutions and 138 convictions by the Ministry of the Environment, and in the first six months of this year we have initiated 114 prosecutions and obtained 83 convictions. It is moving up every time.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Markham is waiting patiently for a new question.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Another late show?

Mr. Cousens: Could be.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Mr. Cousens: I have a question for the Minister of Housing to welcome her back after taking a day off. It has been some 58 days since

this minister has been appointed to cabinet and since that time there has been no announcement, there has been no statement, and no action.

Yesterday morning, it is said, she met with the mayor of Toronto, His Worship Arthur Eggleton, who presented a 22-page report on the housing crisis in Toronto. As a result of that meeting, I was hoping the minister would have made some kind of an announcement, and maybe she can now. Did either of them touch on the need to determine an emergency plan for the homeless for this winter?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: The situation of the people in this province and in this city who do not have a place to live is a very serious one. I have visited some of the places where people who currently have no place to live get shelter for the night. All members who have done that know how dreadful those places are and how much help the people who are currently homeless need.

The mayor did not raise this question in his discussions yesterday. What we discussed was a general approach to solving the housing situation in Ontario. In particular, he raised his concern that our approach be one that took into account the various areas that make up the greater Toronto region. This is exactly in line with the work we have been doing and with the announcement in the throne speech of a greater Toronto co-ordinating committee looking at the problems of the greater Toronto area in a unified fashion.

Mr. Cousens: I am very surprised that the mayor did not raise that as one of the issues on the important and urgent problem we have in Metropolitan Toronto right now.

Interjection.

Mr. Cousens: It is obvious the minister did not raise it with him, either.

From the ministry's own statistics, approximately 45 people will die this year in Ontario because of homelessness. Our hostel network is overwhelmed. People are living in tents and makeshift homes, all because they cannot find decent, affordable housing.

Will the minister not consider our party's suggestion of establishing an emergency housing directorate so that, at the very least, we can prevent such unnecessary deaths in the months to follow?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: To begin, may I simply correct the suggestion made by the member that I had a day off yesterday. I spent yesterday afternoon meeting with the Ottawa groups and with the Federation of Ottawa-Carleton Tenants' Associations.

As to the question he has raised, we are now actively working to find emergency housing for any of the unfortunate people who find themselves on the street. The people from the Metro Toronto Housing Authority and the people from the Ministry of Community and Social Services do indeed go to those people and find them emergency shelter as a matter of course now.

What this government realizes is that no short-term answers will work here; that finding someone a bed for the night is a necessary but not sufficient answer to his or her difficulties. Our commitment is to make sure that there will be housing in place, decent housing which people can afford, so that the people who have to be on the street some of the time now will find permanent accommodation, because that is the only answer to this problem.

NURSING HOME

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I have a question of the Minister of Health. I would like to ask the minister if she is aware of the process that is going on in St. Thomas, where Caressant Care, which bought Rest Haven Nursing Home on September 6, 1986—this issue has been raised in this House before—will be moving the 40 nursing home residents from Rest Haven Nursing Home to its Caressant Care facility and moving 50 rest home residents from the Caressant Care nursing home to Rest Haven, which they are now going to convert into a rest home.

I would like to ask the minister if she is prepared to use her power under the Nursing Homes Act to not allow this forced relocation of residents, and whether she has reviewed the literature that indicates that forced relocation of elderly people in nursing homes or rest homes is very detrimental to their emotional and physical health.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: In response, let me say that I am not familiar with the specific case that the member raises in the House today, and I would be pleased to have an opportunity to look into that case.

Having said that, I would like to state that I am committed to allowing not only residents of nursing homes but the elderly population generally to live as independently as they can and with dignity in those homes when they require those kinds of services.

I will acquaint myself with the issue the member raises today and I hope in the future, when he asks the question again, I will be better able to respond.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I asked the minister's predecessor the question and he never bothered to respond. His ministry officials have been involved in this issue for a couple of years and they have not been able to resolve the issue. In fact, at this point they have approved the forced relocation of these residents in this nursing home.

I would like to ask the minister also to make herself aware of the fact that this nursing home chain, Caressant Care, owns 661 nursing home beds in southwestern Ontario. It is becoming a large monopoly, along with the other chains that exist in this province. Does the minister not understand that one of the major problems in this community, in St. Thomas, is that when her ministry approves the purchase of Rest Haven by Caressant Care, this type of thing is bound to happen with a monopoly? They own all the nursing home beds in the city of St. Thomas.

Is she prepared again to use the power granted to her under the Nursing Homes Act to stop the buying up of nursing homes by these large chains and increasing their power in the province in various communities and regions?

1500

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: To respond on a philosophical basis as opposed to a specific given in this particular case—and I do make the commitment to the member to listen to his concerns and I will do what I can to familiarize myself with the particular instance—on a philosophical basis, my concern is that patients and residents in nursing homes receive the highest quality of care that we can ensure they are able to receive.

My commitment for the future and the announcement from this government is our approach to expansion of the nonprofit sector in the nursing home environment. He will be aware that in his own community we have been looking to fulfil that commitment to ensure that we do expand that sector wherever possible when we receive proposals where we can approve nonprofit nursing home beds. I am happy to let him know that I will take a look at the specific he has raised in the House today, but my approach is one of quality of care for patients as the number one priority.

WASTE DISPOSAL

Mrs. Marland: My question is to the Minister of the Environment. I know he is aware there is a very large, important meeting taking place tonight in the Pickering High School. Will the minister confirm whether or not he has received a formal application from Metro Toronto asking

for an exemption from the environmental assessment process for the proposed Brock South landfill site and does he have any comment on that application for exemption?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: I have not received it personally at this time and I am not aware if it is in the Ministry of the Environment at this time. I have, as the member has followed through the news media, the proposal that was made, the vote that took place at council. I think there were three or four resolutions that were before Metro council. I am aware that they have an intention of doing that. I have not received it yet in any form and I am not in a position to be able to comment on it until I have received it.

I want to ensure, as I know the member would, that we have a full evaluation of the circumstances surrounding any proposal that Metropolitan Toronto would put forward. They have indicated that they have a garbage crisis, as they would refer to it, and they are looking for ways in which to handle that garbage crisis. The member, being from Mississauga, will agree with me that one of the best ways of doing that is to implement a full recycling program in Metropolitan Toronto and all of the incentives are there and all of the upfront money is there for them to become involved in that. I think that would serve to alleviate part of that problem, but specific to the member's question, I have not received that yet.

Mrs. Marland: The minister knows there are three bases upon which an exemption to the environmental assessment process can be made. The first one is environmental insignificance, and we certainly know that is not so in this particular site. The second is public interest, and we know what the people think, especially those in the Durham region who live in close proximity to this proposed site. The third is an emergency.

I heard very clearly the minister's comments where he was talking about the fact that they may have a request for an emergency based on what he has heard so far, albeit through the media. I would ask the minister if he considers there to be a real emergency in view of the existing facilities—and we certainly are aware, through the same sources I suppose, that the existing facilities have in fact about another 12 years for Metro Toronto. But in view of the existing facilities, what will the minister do when Toronto makes that request and claims it is an emergency when, as he has just said himself, they have not begun to explore their garbage recycling alternatives?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: I am aware that a former Minister of the Environment, Bill Newman,

indicated he was denouncing the previous government's handling of that particular site, Brock landfill site, and said there had been misinformation provided in that regard. I am aware of that and I understand he will be speaking on that tonight.

I am wondering if the member is advocating, for instance, that the Keele Valley landfill site should run 24 hours a day. One of the problems I guess when they look at all of the other alternatives—and I simply look at all those alternatives. I would have to be convinced in any case. As former ministers would know, if there is ever an emergency, a minister has to be assured in his or her own mind that in fact there is an emergency, and our ministry officials would, of course, have to evaluate that circumstance.

But when you look at the various alternatives, I heard the member mention 12 years, and I think she would have to know that if she is thinking of Keele Valley, you run the trucks 24 hours a day in and out of there.

PETITION

THERAPY FOR ABUSED CHILDREN

Mr. M. C. Ray: I have a petition signed by approximately 568 residents of the city of Windsor and addressed to the Legislature, petitioning the need for legislation of mandatory programs for child abuse therapy offered by the children's aid society.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

ONTARIO UNCONDITIONAL GRANTS AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Eakins moved first reading of Bill 46, An Act to amend the Ontario Unconditional Grants Act.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Eakins: The main purpose of this legislation is to implement changes to the unconditional grants program for 1987 which were previously announced by my predecessor in November 1986. The legislation will also make two housekeeping amendments to the act.

HIGHWAY TRAFFIC AMENDMENT ACT

Mrs. Grier moved first reading of Bill 47, An Act to amend the Highway Traffic Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mrs. Grier: The purpose of this bill is to aid in the enforcement of the rules of the road as they apply to bicyclists. It adds the requirement that bicyclists provide identifying information to

police officers who request it, and I commend the legislation to the government.

ASSOCIATION OF REGISTERED WOOD ENERGY TECHNICIANS OF ONTARIO ACT

Mr. McGuigan moved first reading of Bill Pr21, An Act respecting the Association of Registered Wood Energy Technicians of Ontario.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Speaker: Explanation?

Mr. McGuigan: The purpose of the act is to set up rules and regulations to govern the—

Mr. Speaker: Sorry. Is this a private bill?

Mr. McGuigan: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: Actually, no explanation is allowed. That can be made in committee.

POLICE AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Eves moved first reading of Bill 48, An Act to amend the Police Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Eves: The purpose of this bill will be to prohibit police forces from selling or trading abandoned, lost, stolen, confiscated or seized firearms. The bill would require police forces to destroy all abandoned, lost, stolen, confiscated or seized firearms when those firearms were no longer required for the conduct of a legal action.

1510

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

Hon. Mr. Conway moved, on behalf of Hon. Mr. Peterson, resolution 5:

That a select committee on constitutional reform be appointed to consider and report on the 1987 constitutional accord, signed at Ottawa on June 3, 1987, and tabled in the House on November 23, 1987 (sessional paper 74), and matters related thereto; that the committee submit its report to the assembly before the end of the spring sitting of the First Session of this parliament, provided that if the House is not sitting, the committee have authority to release its report by depositing a copy of it with the Clerk of the assembly and upon resumption of the sittings of the House, the chairman of the committee shall bring such report before the House in accordance with the standing orders; that the committee have authority to sit concurrently with the House and during any adjournment of the House, subject to the approval of the

three party whips; and that a full Hansard service be provided for all of the proceedings of the committee.

Hon. Mr. Scott: On behalf of the government, it is a great honour to join the debate in support of this particular resolution.

Honourable members will know that in the spring of 1980 our fellow citizens in Quebec were asked in a provincial referendum to vote whether they proposed or not to continue as part of the Canadian Confederation. They were promised in the course of that referendum by our national leaders and by leaders from all across the country that a vote for Canada was not a vote for the status quo, and the people of Quebec were assured time and time again that in return for a no vote in that important, perhaps critical, referendum, Canadian federalism and our Constitution would be renewed.

Ontario and its leaders at that time added their voice to those promising change to Quebecers and on May 9, 1980, in this Legislature by a vote of 111 to zero, the Legislature approved a resolution calling for "a new Constitution to satisfy the diverse aspirations of all Canadians and to replace the status quo which is clearly unacceptable."

A short 11 days later after a hectic referendum campaign, the people of Quebec delivered their part of the bargain. Quebec, by its vote, put its confidence in the Canadian Confederation and just as important in the assurances of constitutional change that had been solemnly made by all of us to it.

But in the constitutional changes which brought us the Charter of Rights and Freedoms in 1982, two years after the referendum, the historic concerns of Quebec were, as everybody conceded, not addressed. On the other hand, concerns relating to equality rights—section 15 of the charter—multiculturalism, aboriginal rights and minority-language education, all mentioned in the charter, were given constitutional recognition; only the concerns of Quebec were left out.

The 1982 Constitution failed to make good on the promise we had made in the referendum that there would be adequate protection for the distinct identity of Quebec. When we promised that, those words caused no difficulty. Rather than having its distinctiveness within Canada recognized and protected in 1982, Quebec saw its powers reduced by that Constitution without its consent.

The sentiments in Quebec following the events of 1982 have been graphically described by a number of people, but among them Solange

Chaput-Rolland, a member of the Pepin-Robarts commission and one of the leading campaigners for a no vote in the referendum. After the 1982 round, here is what she said:

"English Canada could not care less one month after, and it stung me, and it stung all of us who fought so hard to remain in Canada; and to find ourselves outside of Canada, you know, it was a very dramatic gesture when Mr. Lévesque put the flag of Quebec at half-mast on the day you were all celebrating here. But our hearts were at half-mast too that day, because we were out in 1982 of a country we had chosen to remain in."

The exclusion of Quebec by the 1982 negotiations, which she so graphically described, had serious consequences for all of us. Within Quebec, the provincial government refused to recognize the legitimacy of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The National Assembly inserted clauses in each of its laws purporting, pursuant to section 33, to override the charter.

Further, Quebec refused to discuss future constitutional changes, a point I made to the member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman) today. This meant, for example, and this is only one example, that when first ministers met last March in an attempt to entrench an aboriginal right to self-government in the Constitution, the government of Quebec refused to participate. This, of course, made it virtually impossible to secure adequate support for an amendment. As we know, that meeting, regrettably, ended in failure.

Quebec's exclusion as a result of 1982, notwithstanding the referendum of 1980, was a deep and nagging wound for all Canadians and for all of us. It was a wound which, if left unattended, might some day threaten again the unity of the nation in an even more profound way.

In order to heal that wound and to restore Canada to a measure of political and constitutional health, first ministers met earlier this year and eventually arrived at the constitutional resolution which has been laid before the House today. Its genesis was a public speech made by representatives of the new Quebec government about a year and a half ago and its five proposals were widely debated across the country in the proceedings leading up to the first ministers' meetings.

The key to the agreement was the decision by provincial Premiers in August 1986 to limit the discussions to that list of five proposals which had been put forward by the strongly federalist government of Quebec. These five proposals were widely recognized across Canada as being

moderate and constructive. I believe that Quebec's proposals made a year and a half ago should be recognized as an act of profound political courage and national statesmanship.

This government believes that the constitutional resolution laid before the House is demonstrably in the national interests. In our judgement, it represents an essential and historic act of national reconciliation. It will bring to an end what we regard and what we must regard, all of us, whatever our views, as an intolerable situation: the constitutional isolation, in theory, in law, in fact, of Quebec from the rest of Canada. In the judgement of the government, it will do so while maintaining individual and group rights under the charter to which we are all also committed.

This government wants a full and open scrutiny of the terms of the accord. That is why the government proposes that the constitutional resolution be referred to a select committee on constitutional reform and related matters. The committee will have an opportunity to hear the views of the citizens of this province and report back to the House.

Like all statecraft, the Meech Lake accord is not perfect, but neither was the Constitution Act of 1982. That is demonstrable. Nor, indeed, was the original Confederation compromise of 1867. That was demonstrable. Canada, like all non-revolutionary societies, has been built and sustained through political compromise rather than abstract theorizing. The 1987 constitutional accord is not the end of the journey but another milestone in the continuing process of nation-building. I believe the accord is firmly within the Canadian tradition. It respects and honours the delicate balance between the unity and the diversity of the Canadian nation.

1520

Let us take some parts of it, the "distinct society" provision, for example. Clauses 2(1)(a) and (b) of the constitutional resolution provide that the Constitution is to be "interpreted"—that is the word used—in a manner consistent with the existence of language duality in Canada and the fact that "Quebec constitutes within Canada a distinct society."

This section does not confer any powers whatever. It is an interpretative provision which will be used by courts where other constitutional provisions are unclear or ambiguous. This clause, so widely debated, therefore confers no power and is an interpretative aid alone. It instructs courts in cases of ambiguity to take into

account the existence of language duality and distinctiveness in the process of interpretation.

The clause is finely balanced. It recognizes the existence of the English-speaking minority in Quebec and the French-speaking minorities in other provinces and affirms the role of governments in preserving those minorities.

A second important point is that this clause does not override anything in the Charter of Rights. Since it is merely an interpretative provision, it is subordinate to the charter. All Quebec laws, including those passed in order to preserve linguistic duality or promote the distinct identity of Quebec, must comply, like any other laws, with the charter. If a law violates the charter, then the law will be invalid.

The government of Quebec, in entering into the negotiations that produced the Meech Lake accord, has affirmed its acceptance of the Charter of Rights. M. Gil Rémillard, the Quebec minister of intergovernmental affairs, indicated in his speech at Mont-Gabriel in May 1986 that the charter is a document which Quebecers can be proud of.

M. Rémillard has pledged for his government, "We want the fundamental rights of Quebecers to be as well protected as those of other Canadians." Thus the Meech Lake accord, far from undermining the charter, ensures its solemn and symbolic acceptance by the government of Quebec.

Take a second example about which there may be debate or concern, the federal powers and their reach as a result of the accord. One of the criticisms of the accord has been that the federal government has sacrificed too many of its powers to the provinces.

It should be noted, first of all, and there is a specific provision to this effect, that nothing in the accord diminishes the legislative power of Parliament. All existing federal powers remain intact and untouched under the accord. The accord does clarify and constrain the use of the federal spending power, which was not previously a power explicitly granted to the federal government, but the constraint is a relatively narrow one.

Federal spending is only limited in areas of exclusive provincial jurisdiction, and the limitation only applies to future shared-cost programs. It imposes no limit on existing programs nor does it apply to federal funding provided directly to individuals or institutions.

Finally, even in the case of shared-cost programs undertaken in areas of exclusive provincial jurisdiction, provinces are required to

undertake programs or initiatives compatible with objectives defined by Parliament in order to receive compensation. I believe it cannot be demonstrated that any program initiated by the federal government in the last 40 years would have failed to meet the test that the accord stipulates.

At the same time, the spending provision makes plain that the federal government has the constitutional right to attach conditions to money it offers to provinces within areas of exclusive provincial jurisdiction. I emphasize that because it was a point worthy of debate, that nowhere in the Constitution was the federal government given the power to spend money in areas of exclusive provincial jurisdiction. That is now provided for, and it is a matter of right that the federal government can attach conditions to moneys it offers to provinces within areas of exclusive provincial jurisdiction.

In the government's judgement, this represents in totality a reasonable compromise between those who argue for an unlimited federal spending power in areas of exclusive provincial responsibility and those who would impose much more severe limits on that power. It is a much narrower restriction on federal power than was proposed, for example, by the federal government itself in the 1960s. We have not gone as far in the Meech Lake accord as the national government of that day proposed to go in relation to spending power.

Moreover, the principle that provinces should have the right to opt out of federal programs is by no means novel. In fact, the major shared-cost programs that have been undertaken since 1960 have made provision for a provincial variation in the nature of the programs delivered, and this amendment will permit provinces to tailor programs to the needs of their residents while meeting program objectives defined by the federal government.

A third matter that will be referred to is, of course, the amending formula, and the resolution provides for two changes in the amending formula. The Constitution Act of 1982 had provided that the province could opt out of certain constitutional amendments and apply for compensation if the amendment related to education or other cultural matters. Under the Meech Lake accord, this right to apply for compensation is broadened to apply to any amendments transferring powers from provinces to the federal government.

The second change to the amending formula involves amendments to certain federal institu-

tions, such as the Senate and the House of Commons, and to amendments creating new provinces. Formerly, those amendments required the consent of the federal Houses and seven provinces representing at least 50 per cent of the population. Under Meech Lake, the consent of all provinces would be required.

Here we see, I believe, an important example of the delicate balancing of federal and provincial interests in pursuit of national reconciliation. The class of amendments subject to unanimity involves matters which have important effects on the country as a whole. Further, the Meech Lake process itself is testimony to the fact that unanimity is, as indeed it has been in Canada for 120 years, a workable requirement.

Mr. Laughren: Is that how the other provinces got in?

Hon. Mr. Scott: Of course that is precisely how the other provinces got in, by requirement of unanimity.

The accord also provides for a provincial role in future appointments to the Senate and the Supreme Court of Canada. In future, the federal authorities will make appointments from lists of candidates submitted by the provinces. These proposals will not grant provinces undue control over these national institutions. No appointment can be made unless the candidate is acceptable to the federal government. Further, once the appointment has been made, the appointee is not subject in any way to provincial control.

Here, as elsewhere, there is a realistic balancing between provincial and federal roles and responsibilities. It is this sense of balance and proportion which Robert Stanfield, for one, emphasized in his overall assessment of the accord when he said: "It is not a matter of making concessions to Quebec. It is a matter of the participants of the accord, the federal government and the provinces, reconfirming that English- and French-speaking people have to live together in mutual respect if this country is going to work."

Let me turn to the matter of the hearings that are referred to in the resolution. The accord, as a result of this resolution if it is passed, will now be the subject of public scrutiny and debate by the citizens of Ontario. Two things, I believe, need to be kept in mind during that debate.

First, I believe that the accord cannot be analysed against some purely hypothetical or abstract alternative. The accord must be analysed in the light of the absolute necessity of achieving national reconciliation and discharging our promise of 1980. It is not sufficient to ask

whether there is an alternative set of proposals which might theoretically be superior to the accord as written. The real issue is not one of theory; it is whether there is an alternative set of proposals which can accomplish in fact the critical and overriding task of national reconciliation.

1530

I think it is worth remembering that if English Canada refuses to proceed with the accord, we will continue to live with the serious political consequences associated with Quebec's isolation from Canada. Moreover, I believe English Canada will appear to have said no to Quebec for the second time following the referendum in this decade.

When members of this House and citizens of the province come to consider the accord, I would ask that we might all remain mindful of the paramount objective of national reconciliation. To those who propose amendments—and many will—when the committee considers those amendments, we might keep in mind the following questions.

First, how serious is the alleged flaw? Second, must the flaw alleged be corrected immediately, or is it possible the problem can be corrected at some future time, possibly by including it on the agenda for immediate attention by the first ministers at the 1988 first ministers' conference? Third, is the harm identified so significant that it would justify putting at risk the broad consensus we have achieved in pursuit of the overriding objective of national reconciliation?

In addition to these particular questions, there is a second general consideration that I hope might be kept in mind in the provincial debate on the accord. The issue for Ontarians is not simply whether to amend or to reject the accord. There is also a larger important question relating to the future of constitutional reform, which the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. B. Rae) referred to earlier during question period in a slightly different context.

Much of the criticism of the accord has focused on the process through which it came about, and one of the questions the select committee may well want to investigate is ways in which that process might be improved. The committee may also want to investigate future substantive initiatives for constitutional reform. It is for that reason its mandate is to inquire into the Meech Lake accord and related matters.

In tabling the constitutional resolution before the House today, the government reaffirms the commitment it made on June 3 in Ottawa. We are

confident the proposal is an honourable and historic reconciliation of our fellow citizens in Quebec within this country. We are now proud to ask the House and the people of Ontario to participate once again in this exercise of nation-building.

Mr. B. Rae: I want to start by saying I find it curious, to put it mildly, that we would be addressed by the Premier (Mr. Peterson) at 1:30 on the importance of participatory democracy and giving the people a chance to have their voices heard, and that the Premier would then choose to be absent for the initial discussion of the reference of this matter to the committee.

I might add that this is the second such occasion on which the Premier, among many others, has chosen to be away. He was not here for the reply to the speech from the throne, either by myself or by the leader of the Conservative Party.

This may well be the precedent he is trying to set, that he does not take this place seriously and does not take discussions here seriously. That may well be the attitude he chooses to reflect and to express. There is not much any one of us can do about that, except to comment on it.

I recall well, when I first came here, that there were times when Mr. Davis was not here, but there was never a time when he was not here when he did not take the trouble to speak to the leaders of other parties and say that he could not be in the House for an occasion such as this. Never, not in my experience. This is the sign of a government that has completely lost its sense of proportion and its sense of the importance of this place.

Either this place is going to be an assembly that will have the chance to debate things and have those views heard or it is not. The fact that the member for London Centre (Mr. Peterson), who is after all the first minister in the House, chooses to be absent or away for debates on occasions such as this is, in my view, reprehensible. It shows a contempt for the House, a contempt for the views of other members and a contempt for the perspective of other parties. It does not bode well for the kind of give and take we normally expect to see in the House.

It shows a particular contempt because one of the problems that I think even the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) recognized, since he said it is one of the issues that has been identified by people who are concerned about the Meech Lake accord, is the criticism of the process. That is a criticism I raised today in my questions to the Premier and in my reply to his initial, very brief

statement to the House. It is something that I think we have to address.

In my initial reaction to the first tentative agreement from Meech Lake, I spent some time speaking to this question when I spoke to the House back on May 26. I do not want to be accused of quoting myself but I did spend some time then talking about my experiences as a private member in Ottawa during the earlier constitutional negotiations and my experiences here with this question of constitutional reform.

At that time, the Premier referred to the events that took place at Meech Lake, and subsequently at the Langevin Block, as being an experience of national reconciliation and national bonding. I must say I find that description of what has taken place rather offensive. What we have is a process in which the people have not been involved, in which indeed even the legislatures have not been involved. Our only involvement has been absolutely post facto.

It is true that governments may have been involved, and it is certainly true that they have had an opportunity to discuss the meaning of each clause, why some clauses are there and others are not. But whenever I have asked questions in the House on this matter the Premier has not been particularly forthcoming, as he was not today, in explaining why it was that certain changes were made that have had a serious effect on the accord itself.

I want to make it very clear. I will say what I have said before about this. It is extremely important in the history of this country that Quebec be a voluntary signatory and participant in the Canadian Constitution. That is an extremely important fact of life. It is one that differentiated my response to the Meech Lake accord from that of Mr. Grossman when he was the leader of the official opposition.

Mr. Grossman and I were on television in a debate during the previous election campaign which the Premier did not choose to attend, again perhaps a harbinger of debates to come and of attitudes to come. The Premier chose not to attend that.

We had a very full discussion of Meech Lake, and I put forward my concerns at that time. I want to put them forward again today, but I want to put them forward against the background where I say to the Attorney General that he does not have to give us a lecture on this side of the House about the importance of including Quebec in the Constitution.

There is no question about that. I for one am not going to accept an argument that says if we

raise a single question, if we point to a single flaw, if we raise some major concerns, that even in doing that, we are somehow engaged in an act of quasi-disloyalty towards the country in this process of national reconciliation.

I hope we do not get into this business of the kind of attitude expressed by the Premier this afternoon where he basically implied that anybody who did not agree with him was somehow less of a Canadian patriot and less someone concerned about bringing the Constitution together than he is. That attitude is not going to do. It is an attitude which we will not accept.

There are a great many people in this province and in this country who have concerns about the Meech Lake accord. They are legitimate. They do not stem, as the Premier has said, from people not understanding the accord; they stem from people having a different point of view.

1540

I hope we have not reached the stage in this debate where everybody who has a different point of view is immediately going to be seen to say: "You are not expressing the view of Canadian solidarity that is appropriate." I certainly do not intend to take that attitude, and I am very deeply disappointed that it seems to be the attitude of the Premier.

I think the Attorney General in his remarks today did put forward the case for the Meech Lake accord in a way which reflects the legal scholarship and sense of constitutional history which the Attorney General, quite rightly, reflects in the province, but let me also say there are some other points of view which need to be addressed and which, in my view, the government has not addressed particularly directly in its responses.

First, with regard to the "distinct society" clause, I do not take the view that the clause in and of itself reflects a threat to the country and to national unity. I read the remarks of the member for Etobicoke-Humber (Mr. Henderson), who spoke at some length about Meech Lake in the throne speech debate. I must confess that I do not share his view, and I gather that neither do the Premier and the Attorney General, that in somehow recognizing the "distinct society" clause, we are giving a special status or a separate status to Quebec that is totally and utterly different from that which we accord to other provinces.

I do not take that view. I take the view that what we are doing in the "distinct society" clause is simply recognizing a sociological and cultural reality of our time. When people say Prince

Edward Island is also different, York South is also different, some other part of the country is also different, some other community is different, that is true; that can well be said.

But it would be denying our history as a country to fail to recognize the distinct character of Quebec in this country and in the history of North America. It would seem to me to be only appropriate that our Constitution express that. For that reason, I have never been able to understand or appreciate—and I am still trying to, because I respect his views—the really vitriolic view which was expressed by Mr. Trudeau with regard to the impact of this clause.

It seems to me there is, however, a broader point that needs to be made. My concern about the clause in which the phrase "the distinct society" is contained is not that it sets Quebec apart. My concern is that it is in a sense, as the Attorney General has described it, an interpretative clause that is designed to aid the courts in their interpretation of the entire Constitution. In that sense, as an interpretative clause about Canada, what troubles me with this whole section is not that it sets out something with respect to the question of Quebec, which I think it is only appropriate that it should do, but that it does not touch on other matters.

I have real difficulty, and I think many people do and I hope the House and the country do eventually, with an interpretative clause that is completely silent on the subject of our native people—our first citizens, as Jack Stokes used to insist they be called. I have real difficulty with what I think has been one of our chief failures as a country, and what business that still remains to be done, and that is that if you want to talk about national reconciliation, you cannot just talk about it in terms of Quebec. National reconciliation, if that phrase is to have the meaning it needs to have, includes Quebec, certainly, but it also includes others.

I know the Attorney General will say these are subjects for another day. Ultimately, that may be a conclusion I reach as well. I have not reached it yet because I am not as persuaded as he is that we have to see the accord as unamendable or unchangeable. Not having been involved in the process, it is inevitable that I would have that point of view, but I think I speak for most of my colleagues when I say that we do not share the view that this is the end of the road and that there is nothing useful we can do in trying to change it.

It has been the subject of a very extensive debate within many communities. The member who shares the northern part of my constituency

at the federal level, Mr. Marchi; the member who shares the middle part of my constituency, Mr. Nunziata, and the member who shares the southern part of my constituency, Mr. Witer—all from different political parties—have raised the question of our sense of ethnic identification and, if we were interpreting the Constitution and drafting an interpretative clause that gives colour and substance to the entire Constitution of this country, whether we would not really want to say something about the fact that we have all come here from many different cultural traditions and reflect those cultural traditions in our life and work. To use the phrase, we are not a melting pot as is the United States; we are a country that takes great pride in not only recognizing but also nourishing, protecting and encouraging ethnic diversity and a sense of ethnic history and ethnic identity.

I think all of us have come to see this. Certainly in our political lives, as we get to know different parts of the province and many different communities, I think we all realize that this is not just a matter of folklore, that it is not just a matter of speeches that one gives at various banquets; it is a matter that speaks very directly to the meaning of this country, that we reflect a different kind of immigrant community than others do. We have chosen as a country, very creatively, and I think very courageously, to recognize the histories and the diversity of the country.

Therefore, I think the interpretative section is flawed. I will get to the question of how deeply flawed, but I think it is flawed, not because it includes Quebec but because it does not include other people. If I can make a general point about the Meech Lake document, I think its flaw is that it speaks only to the Quebec agenda, and does not speak to some other agendas which in my view are also extremely legitimate and important; and because of its rigidity it does not provide for a good enough process to deal with this question of how we include others who have not been included in the deal or who have been very directly excluded from the deal. That, I think, is the fundamental question which the House is going to have to address, which we are going to have to address and which the committee is going to have to address.

I want to make a couple of other points before I come to this question of rigidity.

I am not one of those who comes from the school of what I would describe—and I do not mean this uncharitably—as those, principally within the Liberal Party itself, who have been

most critical of the deal because it fails to give absolute primacy to the Charter of Rights. I have said this before and I will say it again, I am not one of those who thinks that the failure of the Constitution in 1982 to make the charter absolutely pre-eminent in all respects was a mistake. At the time—and I am prepared to confess mea culpa—I was critical of the “notwithstanding” clause. I would not be so critical today.

To those who say we are not covered by the charter adequately, or it is possible that governments may do something that will in a sense affect the charter one way or the other, I can only say it seems to me from my brief experience in political life and public policy, admittedly always from this side of the House, my observation is that it is probably wise not to give either the courts or the legislatures the absolutely final word in these matters. It is probably wise to have a kind of dialectical approach where we say, “Let us hear what the courts have to say and let the legislatures consider whether that is really what they want to do,” to give some kind of flexibility, which makes us different from the American Constitution, but which I think preserves the sense of democratic input and some broader concepts of rights that we as legislators might have and that courts from time to time might not have.

To use a shorthand phrase, I think the “notwithstanding” clause is a very effective safety valve. I think it would be a mistake to get rid of it. I think the drafters are to be congratulated for having found it in 1982.

1550

I myself am now persuaded that those who say the problem with this whole Meech Lake accord is—particularly, I think, this has been the view reflected in the women’s movements that have commented on the accord—that it necessarily is a bad thing because it continues this process where provinces can, in a sense, move away from the charter. I am not persuaded that is a terrible thing.

I make the observation that the idea that the courts are necessarily going to be the best protector of anybody’s rights is a view I do not share. I think experience would tend to confirm that you need a combination, a chemistry, if you like, of courts and legislators and yes, the population, people fighting and determining to fight for their rights, and that kind of dialectic before we get the kind of result we want.

Nor am I, unlike many members of the Liberal Party, one of those who believes that the section of the Constitution with respect to the spending

power necessarily limits or takes away from the rights of the federal House which it now has. I think there has been a lot of real misunderstanding about this one, and I think frankly a lot of debates which are really quite out of keeping with what has taken place, such as the allegation that was repeated again today by the member for Mississauga South (Mrs. Marland) that it would be impossible to have a national day care program with this section of the Constitution.

I just do not share that view. I do not see that as part of what we have agreed to or what the Premiers have agreed to. I do not see that as being in this document. I do not see it as a necessary consequence of what the Premiers and the Prime Minister have agreed to.

I will be interested in hearing from people who feel that it is. Having spent a little bit of time thinking about it and reading about what various decisions have been and what the practice has been over the last 35 or 40 years, I really do not think it makes that kind of change. I know one rhetorically would like to think that it does or might want to make the point that it does, but I myself must say I do not feel that is what is taking place.

I think it is worth remembering the words of Pierre Elliott Trudeau before he was Prime Minister, when he was a law professor in the faculty of the University of Montreal. He was writing in a book in 1961 entitled *Social Purpose for Canada*, where the future Prime Minister talked about the meaning of co-operative federalism and what some of the advantages were of having the kind of flexibility that our federal system has.

I cannot quote verbatim because I do not have the quote in front of me, but I remember the passage vividly because it struck me as I read it as a student so many years ago. When I was hearing him now, I realized how very different his views are, which is fine, but I just think it is worth reminding people of what he said at that time.

The point he was making at that time was that what was great about the Canadian Constitution was that it was sufficiently flexible that democratic socialist governments—I think I am using his phrase—would be able to introduce reforms at a provincial level which could then be an example for other provinces to follow and that it was extremely important to have that kind of flexibility in the Constitution.

I think he was reflecting the history of the country up to when he was writing, because 1961 was, after all, before medicare. I doubt very much whether we would have had a national

medicare plan if one province had not had the courage to put it in and say, "This is how it works." There had then been that—if I can use the word again—dialectical relationship where some people said, "Yes, it is working in this province, we can make it work here."

I happen to think that is a good feature of our system of government. It is good for social policy. If we have to have absolute agreement among all provinces before we move in any area of social policy, we are not going to move very far. If we have to wait to move here in Ontario for people to agree in Alberta to the kind of day care program that we will want, we will never get it. I think it is extremely important that we reflect on that or remember that.

To those who try to say that, from a number of groups, and I think particularly I am speaking to those who say the charter should be pre-eminent, the national power should be pre-eminent in all circumstances and the federal spending clause is unacceptable, I just say I do not agree with that view of the country, I do not agree with that view of what the Constitution does, and I do not share the view that the accord somehow dramatically weakens federal power.

However, let me come to my last point. My problem with the accord and the reason I think it is flawed and the reason where I think—the Attorney General asks the question of the tests he has applied, almost sounding like a judge. Now I am wondering whether he is not thinking to the future in terms of how he sets these questions. I mean, he is after all only one member. He does not set the tests; we all set them. However, let us take his tests.

How serious is the alleged flaw? Must it be corrected immediately? Is the harm identified so significant that it overrides national reconciliation? Those are the three questions he has asked us to pose and I want to look at the rigidity of the amending formula, particularly with respect to three issues which I think are of importance. The first is the question of aboriginal rights; the second is the question of Senate reform; and the third is the question of the admission of new provinces into Confederation.

I said this earlier with respect to the interpretative clause: I have real problems with what has happened with respect to our native people. I am deeply troubled that our definition of national reconciliation does not include them. It strikes me as offensive.

Hon. Mr. Scott: Hear, hear.

Mr. B. Rae: The Attorney General says, "Hear, hear." I am glad he is saying it because

what I was hearing from him and what I heard in the speech of the Premier was that national reconciliation means Quebec. It does not just mean Quebec. It does mean Quebec but it also means, frankly, some other dramatically unfinished business we have to address.

Now, if the members want my view—the Premier basically was telling us today that he does not but nevertheless he is going to get it—for this document to have the kind of effect that the Premiers want it to have and that the Prime Minister wants it to have, it is essential in my view that it include an agenda for our native people.

I know the process was frustrating. We were certainly involved again by talking to all the parties and following the debates, as I have done, with a great deal of interest and by meeting with the chiefs both at the national and provincial levels, which I am going to continue to do. I know how frustrating the process has been and how difficult it has been, but I think that the fact the process is not even mentioned in this accord and that in a sense the whole question of aboriginal rights has been just left out in limbo for the future is a very, very serious mistake. I do not know how else to describe it.

Hon. Mr. Scott: Is it a fundamental flaw?

Mr. B. Rae: You ask, "Is it a fundamental flaw?" Yes, I think it is because it allows us as a country to define ourselves in a way which excludes our first citizens, admittedly citizens who do not have the clout of a province from which to exercise some leverage and therefore without a veto in this scheme.

I must say I am very troubled. The federal government is supposed to be the government that is responsible for ensuring the interests of our native people at those discussions and I think the federal government failed. I tried consistently in the House, before the Premier went off to these various conferences, to get him to include it on the agenda. That was not successful. We are going to continue to raise this question. I know my colleague the member for Algoma is going to be touching on it in his speech. It really troubles me as a Canadian to think that we can have a process of constitutional reform and have the nerve to call it national reconciliation and exclude our native people.

I just think that is wrong and I have not heard an argument that tells me it is right. I have not heard an argument that says, "Now that this process is under way, you can bet your life that it is going to be right up there on the agenda and that we have a process to ensure that happens,"

because I do not believe it; I just do not believe that is true.

Second of all, with respect to Senate reform, perhaps Premier Don Getty and Premier Bill Vander Zalm can explain it to me. I am a simple soul, but I would like to know how two individuals who are so committed to Senate reform that they insisted it be the next subject of debate, and how two individuals who are so committed to Senate reform that they made that being part of the next agenda one of their conditions for signing this document, could then say, "But we want to have an amending formula that gives to each and every province a veto over the question of Senate reform."

I do not understand. I do not know who was advising them but they must have been alone in the room. I can perhaps repeat a comment on Meech Lake that I overheard at a conference recently where somebody said the reason Mr. Vander Zalm was there was to explain the complicated parts of it to Mr. Getty. I do not know whether that is true or not. That is an unkind remark and I am sorry to have repeated it, but there I have.

1600

Perhaps this thought has dawned on them by now too, I do not know, but it is certainly illogical to say, "This question is the one I want to get solved," and then to say, "I want to give everybody at the table a veto before we solve it." I do not understand it.

I am going to express a heretical view for members of my party because for 50 years we have advocated the abolition of the Senate. I am going to say I think the subject of Senate reform is not a dead subject, it is a very real subject. We have a federal institution, the Senate, which does not operate now as it should. It has no political credibility in the country. It is a kind of indoor relief department for the party that happens to be in power. It is as functional as a burnt-out appendix in terms of its role in resolving federal-provincial disputes.

Mr. Laughren: Abolition is a kind of reform.

Mr. B. Rae: "Abolition is a kind of reform," the member for Nickel Belt says, expressing the fundamentalism which I have come to expect from him; and I respect it.

I think the question of Senate reform is one which Canadians should be concerned about. I think it is a problem. The fact that we do not have a Senate that works functionally in a system that is a federal system is, I think, one of the problems of our whole federal Constitution. We now have a situation where I think it is going to be very

difficult, if not impossible, to get any meaningful Senate reform. We have basically given a veto with respect to the entire matter to 11 governments, not all of whom have an equal stake in seeing that the Senate reforms itself.

We may well have governments in place in various provinces that have a stake in simply maintaining the status quo for a whole variety of reasons. They may feel they are better off having federal institutions that do not work than federal institutions that do.

We have been through a time in our national life when for so many years in this country we had a government in Quebec that was not committed to the reform of federal institutions because it did not want them to work. That is a fact. Now, there is nothing that says the same atmosphere cannot pervade for a variety of reasons in any one of a number of provinces for a whole bunch of reasons.

I must say I am troubled by the fact that the Premiers who are most in favour of Senate reform, or who claim they are, are the ones who have done more to create a very rigid formula.

Finally, I want to deal with the question of the admission of new provinces. This is a subject that we are, naturally in our party, most aware of, again because of the visit yesterday to our caucus by the leader of the government in the Yukon Territory, Mr. Penikett. It is one, again, that we have raised on a number of occasions, and I have not heard an effective answer. As Mr. Penikett put it to me, he said, "You do not solve one set of regional differences by creating another set." And he said: "You have no idea of the extent of this question of the unanimity rule, the requirement that all 10 provinces agree before any new provinces will be created. You cannot appreciate, living in Toronto, the extent and the depth of the feeling against that in the Yukon and the Northwest Territories. You cannot understand the sense of grievance that exists because we were not even at the table when the Constitution was changed."

That is something that I think is a very real and good point. The Attorney General says there is no difference in the way in which new provinces have been created. I do not think that is true. The reality, as I understand it in terms of constitutional life, is that in the creation of new provinces—25,000 to 30,000 strong in Manitoba when that province was created; 35,000 to 40,000 strong in British Columbia when that province was created—they were created by acts of Parliament; they were created by the federal government.

They are not, in my view, now federal institutions.

I do not think the Territories are federal institutions. They are, in a sense, provinces waiting to be born. Neither one of them has asked for provincial status; neither one of them has pressed for it, but I think we have to admit, not only the possibility but also the likelihood, that the time will come—and frankly I hope it does—when the structure, the sense of stability, the sense of growth and the financial wherewithal will be there that provincial status will be a realistic outcome of a natural process of maturity and growth.

What I think this agreement does is basically to say, "That cannot happen." I do not think it is there because of an accident. I think there are reasons why the government of Ontario has gone along with it. I do not think they have had the courage to express them publicly.

It may well be that there are those in Ontario who feel they do not want to see provinces being created with small bases of population in a large resource base. It may well be that they say, "Look, we went through one very difficult period in the 1970s with huge surpluses being created in Alberta from the changes in oil pricing," and they say they do not want that to happen with respect to the Yukon and the Northwest Territories.

If that is the case, we are entitled to have those reasons on the table, because members of the House should understand—and if the committee travels to the Yukon and to Yellowknife, they are going to hear it directly and they might as well begin to reflect on it now—that the enormous sense of regional grievance that exists is profound, is very real and has consequences which will be different from the consequences of other kinds of regional unhappiness, but will also be very serious. To this one could say, "Well, if a remedy is possible, we should be looking to a remedy which is possible without changing the foundations of the accord."

Laissez-moi dire en terminant, Monsieur le Président, ce que j'ai dit pendant le débat d'il y a six mois, quand l'accord a été signé. L'accord est un événement historique, cela ne fait aucun doute. L'accord représente une reconnaissance de la part des gouvernements canadiens de l'importance d'inclure le Québec dans la famille canadienne, la famille constitutionnelle. Cet après-midi, j'ai touché à ces questions en exprimant une position qui n'en est pas une d'opposition, comme celle de M. Trudeau, comme celle de plusieurs dans le Parti libéral et dans l'autre parti ailleurs. C'est plutôt une

position qui dit clairement qu'il n'est pas acceptable que 11 hommes politiques créent, en quelques heures, un document, et puis qu'ils disent aux législatures: Si vous n'acceptez pas tous les aspects de l'accord, vous menacez la réconciliation nationale. Cela, c'est une chose que je n'accepte pas.

J'accepte, si l'on veut, l'idée que l'accord est un document positif qui représente un avancement important dans les débats sur les événements constitutionnels, mais qui n'est pas du tout le dernier mot; et, comme législateurs, nous refusons d'accepter la notion que nous devons absolument accepter tout de suite, sans question, sans débat, sans problème, tous les aspects des négociations entre les premiers ministres du pays. Ce n'est pas démocratique, cela ne reflète pas la notion de réforme constitutionnelle que j'aimerais voir dans la province, et cela ne respecte pas le droit des législateurs de faire franchement ce qu'ils veulent, ce qu'ils pensent nécessaire pour avancer les intérêts de la population de la province et pour avancer les intérêts du Canada tels que définis par les législatures elles-mêmes.

Voilà la question de processus qui est importante. Ce n'est pas quelque chose de technique, c'est quelque chose de très important. Si on veut vraiment parler d'une réconciliation nationale, ce n'est pas une question de réconciliation entre 11 hommes assis autour d'une table, c'est une question d'avoir la participation réelle des populations du pays. Nous ne pouvons pas avoir une participation si le message du gouvernement est: Ou vous signez, vous acceptez, ou bien c'est fini, c'est tout raté, cela ne va pas continuer.

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If I can conclude, we cannot have a situation where legislatures are basically told, "Either put up or the whole thing is gone." I have never heard that view expressed by anyone in Quebec. I have never heard that view expressed by Mr. Bourassa. I hope I will never hear that view expressed by the Premier, though he came awfully close to it today, because I think it is quite inappropriate.

What we have is a proposal. In my view, the proposal is a historic step. It has some flaws. It would be profoundly undemocratic for this government or indeed any government to say, "It is either this way or the doorway." No Premier has a right to say that. Certainly, the Premier of this province does not nor does the Premier of any other province. We have a right as a Legislature, as do the legislatures of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, New Brunswick and every other province, to make a

decision and to listen to the people of the province and try to effect some changes.

I hope what I have said in my remarks gives some indication as to what I perceive to be some important changes that can be made that will not in our view, and not in my view, in any way endanger the basic thrust of the accord. If the basic thrust of the accord is reconciliation to include Quebec, what does Quebec have to lose by including others? Nothing. What could Quebec possibly have to lose by seeing that others are included as well? Nothing at all. Is it really beyond the ability of the premiers and legislatures working together to devise an amending formula with respect to federal institutions that is less rigid than the rule of unanimity?

Is this country really saying that each and every province has a right to veto every major step we want to take with respect to constitutional reform? Are we really satisfied that we can stand up as members and say, "I am ready," to that approach, when we know that in doing so we are creating a rigidity that is simply unacceptable and that, frankly, dooms us to the difficulties of constitutional reform that we have experienced as a country since 1867?

In conclusion, let us not forget how hard it was to get to 1982. How did we get to 1982? I am not a Liberal, but I will tell members how we got there. There was one man who was bloody-minded enough on behalf of his vision of the country to say, "This is the way it is going to be." That is what he said and that is how patriation took place. Let us not forget that prior to that time it was not possible to get. There was a constitutional logjam.

I say with great respect that if we institutionalize rigidity in this way—not by virtue of our history, not by virtue of something where we can blame the Brits, our colonial past or Westminster—we have no one to blame but ourselves. We will be the authors of our own manacles if we institutionalize rigidity of this kind.

I plead with members to reflect on that. Admittedly, they are all going to be following the kind of party discipline that we see applied from time to time, but I would ask people to reflect for a moment on the importance of seeing the possibilities of change and recognizing that some changes are possible.

Finally, we put forward some amendments at the federal level. They were not accepted. The Prime Minister said he did not see any need to make any changes and he was not about to do so. I hope our Premier does not take the same

approach, because I am sure we will have amendments that our members will want to be putting forward in the House when the resolution finally comes forward. I hope very much that the government of the day will be listening.

Mr. Harris: I am pleased to have the opportunity to join in this debate, as I know a good number of my colleagues wish to join in it as well.

I want to go back in history a little bit and remind everyone that the Ontario Parliament has a history of honest differences of opinion on Confederation, differences which have traditionally fit within a consensus about the kind of Canada that Ontarians want and the kind of Canada that Ontario governments should push for, regardless and whatever their partisan affiliation.

We want to see Quebec join in the Constitution and the charter, legally, formally and willingly. We want to see the commitments with respect to free movement of capital, goods and people apply in Quebec. We want to see the other provisions of the 1982 constitutional agreement apply in Quebec, not simply because our courts indicate that they shall, as indeed the courts have ruled for the past few years. More significantly, the Meech Lake agreement in principle achieves political legitimacy as well for these elements in Quebec. That is important to Canada. It is important to our survival as a nation and it is important to our integrity as a people.

It was never our view, as well, that this kind of achievement could be made without some cost, if that is the right word, in terms of the final shape and scope of this agreement itself. I believe we are fortunate in having a Prime Minister who was able to reach out to premiers who are Liberals and New Democrats and Social Credit, as well as those within his own political party, to shape this agreement and to build this kind of consensus.

Very few Canadians in public life have had this success in the past or have the particular focus on the conciliatory role of national government that produces this type of success today. Members should recall the leadership exercised by Premier Robarts in seeking to open up the question of equality and substance of our Confederation in the Confederation of Tomorrow Conference, which he chaired and sponsored in 1967.

The process opened up a substantive and meaningful dialogue between Quebecers and Ontarians which has thrived, despite odd difficulties, for the past 20 years. Two decades later, we counted among our successes on the broad

question of Confederation the hard work and the determination of Premier Davis, whose efforts were instrumental in achieving the repatriation of Canada's Constitution and the approval of the national charter in 1982.

I believe it is fair to say that in the time of Premier Robarts, Ontario tended to side more with the provincial argument. In the late 1960s and the 1970s, that was an appropriate counterposition to a national government which many Canadians viewed as overly centralist and insensitive to legitimate provincial aspirations and concerns.

However, with the great changes of the 1970s, including the emergence of a separatist government in Quebec, Ontario decided at that time, and rightly, to put strong central government and the survival of a national quality to our institutions at the top of Ontario's list of priorities. There were some forces at work at that time in western Canada and in Quebec who would not have been displeased if the capacity of our national government to act on behalf of our nation's genuine national interests were reduced. It has not been, so far.

It was Premier Davis who said there was no value in a Confederation that confined the role of the government of Canada to that of a travel agent for the provinces. It is still the philosophy of Progressive Conservatives in Ontario to support a strong central government for this Confederation and I believe that most Ontarians, regardless of provincial political affiliation, share a philosophy of nationhood in the Conservative sense.

We do not believe that our nation is merely a hotel in which provinces happen to be pursuing individual goals; neither is our nation simply a league. A nation begs no simile, but if it is like anything, it is a family which must act in concert to ensure opportunity, excellence and freedom.

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Often a quick agreement is not the best agreement. The quick accord is not always the right accord. In the rush of the Meech Lake accord, have we sustained the family home that was conserved so carefully by the fathers of repatriation or have we converted Confederation into a hotel where provincial guests check in and out at will?

In the rush of the Meech Lake accord, have we missed the essence of what Trudeau, Davis, Chrétien, McMurtry and Romanow spent two years considering and debating? I believe the country was better for a process that lasted two years, allowing discussion, development, analy-

sis and understanding. One wonders whether their efforts should be altered overnight.

Do we know the price? Have we given away Senate reform? Have we given away national day care? Have we lost the opportunity for a guaranteed annual income? Has freedom of movement for immigrants been restricted? Have we undermined minority language rights through the "distinct society" provision? Have we changed the family into a league, our nation into a hotel?

Is the national interest served by empowering a province with the population of East York to veto further constitutional developments? Is it in the national interest and is it served by restricting the spending power of the federal government? Is the national interest served by restricting the mobility of new Canadians?

I want to express my grave displeasure at the refusal of this government to allow public hearings last May before the deal was finalized and before it was signed. The Premier participated and was a major part of a very quick accord, a fast track to the signing of that accord, achieving in a night or two nights what was stitched together by Trudeau, Davis, McMurtry, Chrétien and Romanow over two years.

The Premier refused to allow public hearings last spring, which the House requested, as a matter of fact by a free vote. Quebec had two important weeks of public hearings before the final deal was signed. Manitoba had public hearings. But in Ontario, the supposed home of no walls and barriers, our Premier had no time or patience for those public hearings or input. Let me say that we objected, this Legislature objected and it did so at that time by a free vote.

I want to talk about some of the contradictions in this process versus the free trade process and I want to point out some of the contradictions and inconsistencies of our Premier. Many have criticized the methods by which the accord was drafted as being hasty and precluding public input.

The discrepancies between the Premier's approach to the drafting of the free trade agreement and his approach to the drafting of the Meech Lake accord are rather alarming. For months preceding the free trade agreement, the Premier warned repeatedly against a last minute deal, negotiated in haste, under pressure behind closed doors; such a deal could not possibly be a good deal.

The Meech Lake accord was originally drafted on the weekend of April 25 at Meech Lake by the Prime Minister and the 10 premiers. The

premiers were kept in the negotiation room and not allowed to consult staff. On June 2, the Prime Minister and the 10 premiers met in Ottawa to draft the final agreement, and while they were allowed the benefit of advisers at that time they entered into a marathon 20-hour bargaining session which produced the final draft. It was signed at noon on June 3. In the month between the first and final drafts, many groups had identified serious concerns with the first accord; yet the final draft did not reflect any of those concerns.

By contrast, the free trade agreement was negotiated over several months, allowing substantial time for groups to air their opinions and study the issue, including the Premier, who voiced his concerns repeatedly. He had his members participate in an all-party committee review of the issue. He had his ministries conduct impact studies and met with the principal players in Canada and the United States.

Our Premier has criticized the free trade agreement because it does not respond to the concerns raised by particular groups, but he himself ignored the concerns of many in the final draft of this accord. Our Premier claimed he needed an election to receive a mandate from Ontario on the free trade agreement, but he did not ever seek a mandate from the people to significantly change the Constitution of Canada. In spite of the fact that his party came second in terms of the number of seats in the 1985 election, he apparently felt free to totally alter the nature of the country over the course of about 48 hours of negotiations.

Our Premier said the accord should be supported because it is good for Canada; whether or not it is good for Ontario is irrelevant. It is good for Canada; it is irrelevant whether it is good for Ontario. We should be prepared to act in the national best interest and bring Quebec into the constitutional fold. That contrasts fairly substantially with our Premier who says the free trade agreement is bad for Ontario and is therefore bad for Canada. He ignores the fact that the majority of the other provinces, Quebec in particular, support the deal. That is quite a contrast.

He wants time for public input on the free trade agreement. He wants time for it to be changed. He wants hearings. He wants to be able to make amendments. However, after the original drafting of the accord, he refused to hold public hearings here in Ontario, despite repeated calls for those hearings from our caucus and from others.

Even after we moved an emergency debate last spring on the need for public hearings, he continued to refuse. Members should remember, after that great statement today, how delighted he was to send this out to public hearings. Members should remember a little bit of history about when public hearings and amendments could have had substantial input and some meaning. Members should remember the Premier's views.

It was not until June 1, 1987, the day the Premier left for Ottawa to sign the final accord, after having refused hearings in Ontario, refused to allow any public input, refused any meaningful debate, that he called for national public hearings on the accord, saying it was one demand he would make. It was not until after that—and he was continually pushed by the media about how he could call for that when he had refused hearings in Ontario—that he said he would hold public hearings in Ontario, after the fact.

Prior to the signing of the final accord in Ottawa on June 3, our Premier said the Meech Lake accord was a "delicate balance which could not withstand any changes." Indeed, the changes between the draft and the final versions, as members will recall, were minimal. Immediately after the signing of the final accord, the Premier referred to it as an evolving thing. He said he believed small changes might be possible.

During the election campaign, our Premier said the accord could be "changed" and "amended" after public hearings in Ontario. By this time, the Quebec assembly had concluded its public hearings. It had passed the accord. Bourassa had called upon the other provinces to sign it without making any changes. The federal government has since followed suit.

There are other contradictions. The Premier and the Attorney General have since been sending out mixed signals on whether or not the accord can be changed. The Premier told the women's groups that he would bring up their concerns about the accord at the first ministers' conference that was held during the election. During the election he told the women's groups, "I'll bring it up." However, the accord was not on the agenda, and the Premier did not request that it be put on the agenda.

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However, after raising the matter in a very casual conversation with other premiers, our Premier declared that there was no basis to the women's concerns, that the accord did not need to be changed. After our Premier said there was no basis for their concerns, our Attorney General met with women's groups and said there might be

a basis for concern and he would look into the need to change the accord.

From April 30 to the present day, our Premier has demonstrated a singular inability to explain the meaning and the ramifications of the accord which he helped to draft and which he signed. He has yet to respond adequately to any of the concerns and the questions that have been voiced on this accord, and I want to touch on some of those.

Immigration: the first part of the Meech Lake accord deals with immigration. This part constitutionally enshrines the Cullen-Couture agreement signed between Ottawa and Quebec, which allows Quebec to screen immigrants using its own point system. This part also guarantees Quebec a share of immigration equal to its share of the Canadian population, about 25 per cent, plus an optional additional five per cent at Quebec's discretion. The optional five per cent is to compensate Quebec for the loss of immigrants who initially choose Quebec but then move elsewhere in Canada. The right to enter into similar agreements governing immigration is extended, apparently, to all other provinces.

What are the concerns with this?

The point system used by Quebec under the Cullen-Couture agreement is very, very different from the federal point system, and it is heavily biased towards French-speaking immigrants.

Under the Cullen-Couture agreement, the system is defensive only. If an immigrant qualifying under the Canadian point system chooses Quebec as his province of destination, then he must also qualify under the Quebec point system. Should he fail to qualify under its system, he is allowed to choose another province as his destination. In other words, acceptance into Canada is determined by the Canadian point system.

Under the Meech Lake accord, Canada guarantees Quebec at least 25 per cent of all immigration. This means that 25 per cent of all immigrants to Canada would have to qualify under the Quebec point system. Currently, about 15 per cent, on average, of Canadian immigrants are French-speaking, and not all of those choose Quebec as their province of destination. However, under the accord, an additional 10 per cent of immigrants must be French-speaking, and all must choose Quebec as their province of destination.

As a result, immigration from non-French-speaking countries must be reduced by the corresponding 10 per cent. Landed immigrants from non-French-speaking countries would have

greater difficulty in reuniting their families in Canada because the potential amount of immigration spaces available to these people would be 75 per cent of all spaces rather than the 100 per cent that is potentially available now.

While all the provinces stand to lose immigration to Quebec as a result of the guarantee, let us face it, Ontario receives the lion's share of immigration to Canada, approximately 48 per cent, and we therefore stand to lose the most.

The Premier denies that family reunification in Ontario will suffer as a result of the accord, saying that the family class is exempt from the accord. The family class covers only a husband, a wife and dependent, unmarried children under the age of 18. All other family members must enter as assisted relatives, and they do come under the accord. Even qualifying under the assisted-relative category is difficult, precluding many individuals who would normally be thought of as family.

For the first time—I was just about to say Madam Speaker; I had it wrong all the time she was in the chair—Mr. Speaker, a provincial quota founded on the basis of language will be established. Currently, the federal government does not even establish target levels for any province. When the Premier was first questioned about this, he replied that the accord simply repeated the Cullen-Couture agreement. When it became no longer possible for him to say this, he kept calling the 25 per cent “a target” until it was repeatedly pointed out that the accord said “guarantee,” not “target.” I think it was at that time that one of the Attorney General's officials admitted to Lorrie Goldstein that it should have said “target.” Well, it did not; it said “guarantee.”

Multicultural groups are concerned as well about other provinces entering into similar agreements. Should every province establish its own point system and quotas, it would result in a checkerboard of immigration policies, robbing Canada of a national policy.

They also fear that the provincial point systems could be used to keep out selected groups or only allow in selected groups. Since Quebec's point system does that—it is highly biased, and understandably so, towards French-speaking immigrants—the groups fear that Ottawa would be hard-pressed to deny other provinces the same option.

These agreements would not necessarily have to be debated in Parliament or the provincial legislatures, allowing immigration policies to be determined in closed-door meetings. Agree-

ments arrived at without public debate and consent would then have the force of constitutional law.

The other difficulty in allowing each province to negotiate its own agreement is that it would result in a pie of 105 per cent. If each province negotiated a quota equal to its share of the Canadian population, the additional optional five per cent for Quebec would necessitate a whole of 105 per cent.

I want to talk as well about the distinct society. The “distinct society” clause defines Quebec as predominantly French-speaking with an English-speaking minority and Canada as predominantly English-speaking with a French-speaking minority. It grants the Quebec government the power to “preserve and promote” this distinct society, and Canada and the other provinces the power to “preserve” its national character.

What are the concerns with this? Women's groups, ethnic communities and natives are upset by the defining of Canada and Quebec solely on the basis of language spoken, feeling that they should have been identified as an integral part of the provincial and national character. Francophone groups outside of Quebec are upset that the provinces and the federal government are pledged only to “preserve” the dual nature of the country and not to “preserve and promote,” as Quebec has pledged to do. Anglophones in Quebec and francophones outside Quebec dislike being constitutionally labelled as a minority, fearing that such a description would give their minority status the force of constitutional law.

However, the major concern about the “distinct society” clause is the fact that no one can adequately explain what it means. For example, would Quebec have the right to eliminate the use of English in business or cut back on minority-language education in order to preserve and promote the French-speaking language majority and ensure the minority status of English-speaking citizens? Would Canada and the other provinces have the right to refuse French-language services and education to preserve the English-speaking majority? Could they establish immigration point systems which would be biased in favour of English-speaking immigrants?

There are a multitude of interpretations of this clause already. When the Premier was asked to explain what the clause meant, he replied that it would be interpreted by the courts. This response does nothing to quell our fears, does nothing to quell the fears and objections of the concerned groups. They do not want to have to engage in

lengthy court battles, which they might lose, to determine what the clause in fact means. Either they want the clause more clearly defined or they want a guarantee that their rights and freedoms under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms cannot be adversely affected by the exercise of powers granted by this section. I think that is reasonable.

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The accord promises that only two minor sections of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms cannot be adversely affected by the exercise of powers under the "distinct society" clause: the section of the charter which says the rights and freedoms granted by the charter itself should be interpreted so as to recognize the multicultural heritage of Canada, and the section which states that nothing in the charter itself can be interpreted as limiting or restricting the rights granted native groups under the British North America Act.

So what are the concerns? This section was added to the final draft of the accord. The Premier said it was done to respond to the concerns voiced by groups after they saw the original draft. However, it falls well short of the kind of guarantee the groups were looking for. They wanted a guarantee that all the rights under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, most notably democratic rights, mobility rights, minority-language rights, minority-language education rights and equality rights under section 15, could not be adversely affected by the exercise of power under the "distinct society" clause.

For example, could Quebec prohibit anglophones from outside Quebec from moving into Quebec under the "distinct society" clause because it would jeopardize the francophone majority status? Of course they could, anything can be interpreted to upset that.

When asked why the section simply did not state that the Charter of Rights and Freedoms could not be adversely affected by the "distinct society" clause, the Premier said such a statement was not necessary. He did not say it was not desirable. He did not say it could not be done. He did not say it should not be done. He said it was not necessary. He said the section was inserted to respond to concerns that had been raised, that even the section as written was not really necessary. When asked why he had not opted for a more reassuring blanket section, since neither section, in his opinion, was really necessary, he could not or he would not answer. Of course, the concern is that taking the two aspects and mentioning them highlights by omission all the other aspects.

The Supreme Court of Canada's ruling on separate school funding has since thrown suspicion on our Premier's claim that nothing in the interpretation of the "distinct society" clause could adversely affect the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. In fact, the Supreme Court's ruling was the exact opposite. The Supreme Court ruled that separate school funding did violate the charter but that the charter could not be used to prevent a government from exercising powers granted to it under other parts of the Constitution. Because the province had the power to extend public funding to education bodies under the Constitution, the fact that the way in which it chose to do so violated the charter could not be used to prevent it from doing so.

Applied to Meech Lake, such a ruling would mean that if the Quebec government exercised its powers under the "distinct society" clause in a discriminating manner, the individuals discriminated against could not use their rights under the charter to stop the Quebec government from pursuing the discriminatory policy, or any other government. The same would apply to the policies pursued by other provinces and by the federal government under the "distinct society" clause. This ruling, coupled with the Quebec government's hesitation to repeal the French-only sign law, despite the Supreme Court ruling that under the current Constitution this law is unconstitutional, I have to tell you, has made anglophones in Quebec very nervous. They fear that if the Meech Lake accord passes as is, they will lose even the leverage of the Supreme Court ruling in their favour.

I want to talk a little bit about the decline in federal powers. The accord allows the federal and provincial governments to enter into shared-cost programs and stipulates that money must be used in a manner consistent with national objectives.

The accord stipulates that judges and Senators will be named from lists submitted by the provincial governments. What are the concerns here? When the first draft was released, the Quebec government said that the wording of the shared-cost programs clause meant that a provincial government could take federal day care money and use it to build roads, because good roads would be consistent with national objectives. It was silly, I think. That is what they said.

When the final draft was prepared, the word "the" was inserted, so the section read that the programs would have to be consistent with "the national objectives." The Premier has made much of this addition, claiming it greatly

clarified the section. The Quebec government replied that the insertion simply made the English text read the same as the French text and it would still allow the spending of day care money on roads.

Many groups and individuals fear that this clause will spell the end of national programs. For example, women's groups fear the clause will block, or could block, the establishment of a national day care program. But even if all the provinces do use federal money for day care, they will use it on provincial programs which will differ widely from province to province. As a result, there will not be a national program per se, and the national services available to individuals will be determined by the province in which the individual lives and, more likely, by the wealth of that province.

Many legal experts have said that the accord would have prohibited the banning of extra billing. I do not want to comment on that. Others fear that if the federal government sees its program money being spent in ways in which it was never envisioned, it will simply stop entering into shared-cost programs.

We have an example of this: the federal government's increasing reluctance to increase transfer payments to the provinces for post-secondary education because it believes that the provinces are not passing the money through to the institutions.

Many fear the appointment of senators from provincial lists will result in a quasi-elected body who feel their first allegiance is not to the country but to the province, and who will believe they have an obligation and a right to resist federal initiatives which do not reflect the views of their current provincial government.

Many fear the appointment of Supreme Court judges from provincial lists will result in the interpretation of national legislation in the Constitution in ways compatible with provincial priorities, not national priorities.

Others fear that, for example, should the Parti québécois ever regain power in Quebec, the Supreme Court could end up with no judges from Quebec, because the federal government might refuse to appoint judges submitted by a separatist government.

I want to talk about the amending formula. The accord stipulates that the following amendments require the consent of all the provinces and the federal government: amendments affecting the Queen, the Governor General, the Lieutenant Governor, the Senate, the principle of proportionate representation, the minimum number

guarantee for representatives in the House of Commons contained in the Constitution Act, 1982, the use of official languages, the Supreme Court of Canada, the establishment of new territories or provinces and any amendment to the Meech Lake accord. Those require the consent of all the provinces and the federal government. All other amendments fall under the current requirement of support by the federal government and two thirds of the provinces representing at least 50 per cent of the national population.

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What are the concerns here? Groups are concerned that any future amendments in the areas mentioned above will not be possible because the likelihood of getting complete agreement is remote. We have already heard and we know that the Yukon and the Northwest Territories are particularly upset.

Premier Bourassa has asked that the remainder of the provinces pass the accord without amendment, and that amendments, if they are to be made, be made later. However, once the accord is passed, unanimous agreement will be necessary to amend the accord, because Meech is in that category as well. Unanimous agreement would be necessary, and the likelihood of Quebec or some other province, or all 10, agreeing to the changes people want is nil.

Our Premier points to the fact that everyone did agree to this accord as proof that unanimous amendments are possible. However, since this accord was drafted, a new government has been formed in New Brunswick and the new Premier seems to oppose the accord, jeopardizing its adoption and highlighting the difficulty in obtaining complete agreement on constitutional matters.

Native groups have one additional concern on the accord. In the Constitution Act, 1982, a series of federal-provincial conferences on aboriginal constitutional rights was pledged. The last of these conferences was held in the spring of 1987 and, very regrettably, no agreement was reached.

Native groups are upset that over the course of five years the provinces and the federal government were unable to agree on aboriginal native rights but were able to agree on Quebec's rights over the course of 48 hours of total negotiations. While they want aboriginal constitutional rights spelled out in the accord, the very least they have asked for—and I do not know why they have stated that they would accept this—is the establishment of a new round of federal-provincial conferences on the subject.

My colleagues will be pointing out a number of concerns that they have as well and a number of concerns of other groups in some of the sections. I have tried to point out today a few of those which have been identified by many people across this province.

In concluding, I want to say we applaud the goal. We applaud the objective of bringing Quebec into the Constitution in a formal and in an active way. The very serious question is, at what price? We are critical of the process, as I mentioned. We are critical of the Premier's role in this process. We are critical of the part the Premier played in what appears to me to have been a case of holding the federal government hostage on this deal. It appears that in their eagerness to grab whatever powers they could some premiers—Ontario's Premier included, if he did not lead the way—have jeopardized what they really attempted to do.

Some of the compromises the Prime Minister was obviously forced into making have nothing to do with Quebec's conditions for signing the Constitution, and that was the reason for all of this; that was the whole purpose of Meech Lake. If members read the Premier's motion that he has asked us to consider before the committee, the whereases and the preambles are all that, "Whereas Quebec was not part, and whereas we want Quebec to be part of it." Some of those compromises really indicate to me that the premiers in fact did not entirely put Canada first, and I find that regrettable.

We have many questions and concerns that have not been answered. We have had those questions and concerns, I might point out, since last spring. Last May, our leader and our caucus offered our total co-operation, goodwill and earnest commitment to work with the government and all parties in the House in a nonpartisan way, to provide whatever time was necessary—whether it was evenings, whether it was weekends—for hearings, for input and consultation before the final deal was finally negotiated and signed on June 3. The Premier refused. Regretfully, that was the time for this exercise, not now.

In spite of that and in spite of our concerns that the Premier's mind appears already made up, we will support this motion for the referral to a select committee. We will work diligently in a very constructive way and in a nonpartisan way to ensure that this process will work as well as possible, given the limitations I have outlined today.

Mr. Cordiano: Indeed it is a pleasure for me, in my role as parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (Mr. Peterson), to speak on the motion to establish the select committee on constitutional reform.

I was listening very attentively to the member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris) and the member for York South, the Leader of the Opposition. Indeed, this specifically refers to the comments made by the member for Nipissing. There was never any doubt that hearings would be held on this question. I am delighted to hear that the member for Nipissing, in his final remarks, was very much in favour of coming forward and being constructive on the committee, making his views and those of the members of his party felt, and having a very constructive approach to this motion that has been put.

Every member of this House will have a role to play in furthering this discussion in the committee and perhaps, at one point when the resolution is put to the House, will have an opportunity to have his say and his viewpoint heard. It is a very important question.

The motion proposes that a select committee be created to consider a report on the Meech Lake accord. That agreement, which was signed by the first ministers in Ottawa last June, is indeed a historic document which addresses several long-standing concerns of the government and people of Quebec about their place in Confederation.

All of us who sit in this chamber really understand that governing a country as large and as diverse as Canada is an ongoing challenge. Throughout its history, our nation has searched for the delicate balance between the perspectives of the federal and provincial governments, the aspirations of our linguistic and cultural communities, and the economic and social interests of our regions. This really is a balancing act and this balancing act is the burden that Canadian political leaders must bear. But it is from this challenge that we have learned to adopt creative and practical solutions to our fundamental problems.

Canada is a great nation because its leaders and its peoples respond to the claims and needs of each other with a great deal of generosity and a great deal of understanding. The agreement reached at Meech Lake is the response of the current generation's political leaders to this ongoing challenge. It really reflects our search for a workable balance among our national identity, sharing economic prosperity and opportunity across all regions, and reconciling the needs of two linguistic communities.

This accord contains no radical departure. It reflects the basic Confederation settlement of 1867. It builds on the constitutional reforms of 1982. It will confirm in the Constitution important principles which are fair and equitable to many different communities in Canada.

The Attorney General has directed his remarks to the "distinct society" clause, the spending-power provision and the proposed changes to the constitutional amending formula. I wish to address certain elements of the accord which are of particular interest to me, both in my capacity as parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and as a strong believer and ardent supporter of multiculturalism.

1700

The accord provides for at least two annual meetings of first ministers, one on the economy and one on the Constitution. These meetings have been held on a regular basis for several years, but when entrenched, they will become a key mechanism by which governments can sit down and co-operatively work out intergovernmental problems.

Tomorrow the Premier will host his fellow ministers at the annual first ministers' conference and will take a constructive and statesman-like approach to the problems of the day.

By constitutionalizing this vital mechanism of co-operative federalism, we can ensure that our national policies better reflect the aspirations of all Canadians. The Constitution is a living, breathing, organic document. It must be able to grow and change as Canada evolves. The agreement to meet annually on the Constitution includes a commitment by the first ministers to consider constitutional reform in the areas of the Senate and fisheries. The Senate is really a national institution of particular concern to the western provinces. Consideration will be given to such matters as its roles, functions and powers, the method of selecting senators and the distribution of seats.

Finally, the first ministers have recognized in the constitutional accord that immigration is an important element in Canada's cultural enrichment, economic growth and demographic composition. These factors all affect provinces, but they are particularly critical in Quebec. The Meech Lake accord will confirm that the federal government may sign agreements with provinces on immigration matters, and for greater security, such agreements may be given constitutional status. In all cases, Ottawa will retain the power to establish broad immigration policy, and

immigrants will have the constitutional right to relocate anywhere they wish within Canada.

I am particularly proud that Ontario was able to play its historic role in facilitating this constitutional accord. Our province has always been committed to nation building. As one of the founding provinces, our people are concerned about the health and vitality of Canada as a whole. We can point with pride to John Robarts and his visionary Confederation of Tomorrow Conference in 1967. His leadership role in devising and hosting this vital meeting 20 years ago laid the foundation for the succession of constitutional discussions which have culminated in the 1987 accord.

The agreement in November 1981 to patriate the Constitution was a very proud achievement in nation building for Bill Davis. His commitment and skill at key points helped bridge the gap between contending approaches to constitutional reform.

Earlier this year, the Premier continued the tradition of constitutional achievement set by Ontario premiers. The Premier played a key role in the negotiations at Meech Lake and in the Langevin Block. The agreement reflects in several places his personal commitment to fairness and the rights of individuals from across Canada.

Governing Canada fairly and effectively is a continuing process of forging the national interest from different views and needs. Every generation must face the same basic challenges in the particular circumstances of its own time. Each must find its own answers to these challenges. The accord constitutes a reconciliation of the national interest and the aspirations and concerns of all regions. It represents a triumph of political will. It is living proof of a strong commitment to Canada.

The select committee whose establishment is proposed today will provide an opportunity for a broad cross-section of Ontarians to participate in the process of constitutional renewal. The issues to be addressed are critical for Ontario and for the entire country. Our hearings on the accord will be open and accessible, and I am looking forward to the contributions of many citizens and groups.

Mr. Wildman: I enter this debate fully aware of the seriousness of the issue at hand, and I would say at the outset that I fully support the efforts made by the first ministers of this country to bring Quebec into the constitutional family of this country. I think that the previous agreement made among the provinces, which ignored Quebec and which was reached without the

knowledge of the government of Quebec, was a most unfortunate event and one which could only lead to further division within our nation.

I am concerned, however, as my leader indicated, about some of the weaknesses that the current accord brings to our Constitution. I think the premiers and the Prime Minister of this country seem so happy about reaching this arrangement to bring Quebec back into the constitutional family that they are attempting to ignore the weaknesses.

The Attorney General in his presentation to the House indicated that we should consider very carefully whether or not those weaknesses were of such magnitude that they should be dealt with immediately, before we determine whether we should move amendments to the accord as it is presented to the House and to the committee for consideration.

I think there are some serious weaknesses that must be dealt with immediately. As a northerner, albeit a northerner from this province, I am most concerned about the fact that the political future of Canadians living north of 60 has been effectively blocked by the Meech Lake accord.

I do not see how we, as Canadians concerned about our fellow Canadians, can accept a situation where the possibility of forming provinces in the Yukon, or perhaps at an even later date in the Northwest Territories, cannot be achieved without the unanimity of all of the provinces, because in effect I think that makes it impossible.

There is a tremendous feeling of grievance in that part of our country, and I think it is a legitimate one and one that should be addressed not just by the people living in the Yukon or the Northwest Territories but by Canadians everywhere in this country and by us, as legislators in Canada and in this province. I call upon the members of this House and the members of the committee to take very seriously the grievances that are felt by the people living north of 60. I will not go on at length about that because I want to deal particularly with the question of aboriginal rights.

I do this very carefully, because I sincerely believe that the aboriginal peoples of this country and their organizations can speak very well for themselves. I look forward to the day when perhaps there may be representatives of the aboriginal peoples sitting here in this assembly so that they can speak directly to the issues presented to this House on behalf of the native people of Canada. But at this time there is no one here of native ancestry, so I take it upon

myself—and I hope other members will do as well—to put forward what I believe to be the genuine concerns and grievances of the first nations of this country. I do that keeping in mind that I believe in the self-determination of peoples around the world and particularly of the first nations of Canada. And I do not presume, as a white of European descent, albeit with some Indian blood a few generations back, I do that very carefully.

I am very concerned that the first ministers of this country could reach an accord to bring Quebec back into the constitutional family and at the same time ignore the unfinished business of aboriginal rights. I do not see how we, as the legislators in Ontario, can accept an accord which does not include the guarantee or at least a way of defining aboriginal rights and then enshrining them in the Constitution as part of the agenda for the continuing constitutional discussions.

We accept that there should be discussions of fishing rights and fishing on the east coast; we accept that there should be discussions of Senate reform; but we ignore the first nations of this province, when all of us recognize that, over four conferences, there have been attempts to define what aboriginal rights mean, what the right to Indian self-government means. We have not been successful, and yet for some reason those same ministers who were dealing with those issues in those conferences could ignore them when they reached an accord on Quebec.

1710

I believe profoundly that by bringing Quebec into the constitutional family we should not be shutting out anybody. We recognize in this accord the distinctiveness of Quebec society. I fully recognize that, keeping in mind the Franco-Ontarians and their contribution to the cultural and social development of this province. But how can we accept the distinctiveness of Quebec society when at the same time we ignore the distinctiveness of the aboriginal peoples of this country?

We all realize that those cultures are perhaps even more distinctive than any other in this country in terms of what it means to be North American. They have distinct languages that are not protected, unlike the two official languages of this province. The Amerindians have occupied these lands for thousands of years, since time immemorial. We all recognize the unfortunate situation that many of those societies are facing social breakdown, truncation and even assimilation into the white society; assimilation in a

"half" way, where it seems that, unfortunately, they absorb and become absorbed in what is the worst in our society and never achieve the best, or very seldom.

I think that we as a Legislative Assembly must recognize that the native peoples, the aboriginal peoples, must be given the resources to preserve and develop their society and their culture in ways they wish to do it. We as legislators must be prepared to allow for Indian self-government. We must be prepared to allow Indians to make mistakes, because they will be their mistakes. They have had to live with our mistakes for far too long.

I believe they will not only make mistakes but in fact will be able to develop an important element of our society, a great contribution to our society, by preserving their unique and distinct society and culture. They cannot do that unless they are also given economic and political rights to control their own affairs. As an assembly, as a nation, we must recognize the right of self-determination for our native peoples.

It is my view that the Meech Lake accord makes this unlikely. I believe the Meech Lake accord is a setback for the recognition of the constitutional right to self-government for the Indians and Inuit of this country, and particularly for the Indian people of this province.

As I said earlier, we have had four national conferences on aboriginal rights. Those conferences involved not only the first ministers of the provinces but also the territories and the aboriginal organizations, the Assembly of First Nations, the Metis, the Inuit Taparistat. They were unable to reach a definition of what are aboriginal rights. They were unable to agree on how Indian self-government could be enshrined in the Constitution. I think they were unable to reach those agreements because there was not the will to do it.

I know it is difficult. There are difficult legal and constitutional issues to deal with, but there never was and never has been the will to work together to define those rights and to work out an accommodation for how they could be included in the Constitution at all. There was a will, and I am glad there was a will, to work together and make compromises to ensure that Quebec could be brought back into the Constitution; but I wonder: why was there that will and yet a willingness as well to ignore the aboriginal people? Why?

I do not think it was at the behest of Quebec or the Quebec government, because the Quebec government has dealt with its own aboriginal

peoples in a way that I wish some other provinces—and I am not necessarily talking about Ontario—would emulate. So I do not think it was because of Quebec.

I do not understand why the federal government, which is responsible for the Indian rights and aboriginal rights in this country, did not fulfil its responsibility to stand up for the aboriginal peoples in the conference of the first ministers. I do not understand it, and I do not understand how this government or this assembly could accept an accord which ignores the fundamental rights of the first citizens of this country.

It is said that bringing Quebec into the Constitution may in fact help to resolve this impasse because the unanimity rule does not apply to an amendment which would recognize Indian self-government, and by bringing Quebec into the Constitution it would make it easier to deal with the recalcitrant provinces, and I do not hesitate to name them. They are the western provinces: British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan.

That may be the case. It may be the case that by bringing in Quebec we can deal with those issues more easily at some future date. But if that is indeed the case, then why was the issue of aboriginal rights not put at the head of the agenda, or at least along with fishing and Senate reform?

I submit that the reason it was not put on the agenda is that there is no real desire among the first ministers to have it put on the agenda. If that is indeed the case, then we should reject that aspect of the accord. We should be prepared to move amendments here and accept them here, not to vote en bloc to reject them but to accept them.

I feel this personally. I, as an individual legislator, want to vote in favour of an accord that brings this nation together, but I say quite categorically, I will have serious difficulty in voting for an accord which does not include on the agenda for future amendment the recognition of aboriginal rights and a guarantee of Indian self-government in the Constitution of Canada. To do less would be to accept—I hesitate to say it—a racist approach to this country, and I cannot accept that.

I call upon the members of the House to consider very carefully an amendment that will in fact include aboriginal peoples, the recognition of their rights and the enshrining of the right to Indian self-government in the Constitution of our country. I think we have an opportunity; I think we have an obligation to do that.

I do not think by saying this that I am denigrating in any way the importance of bringing Quebec into the Constitution. I believe the people of Quebec would agree with us that in including them, we do not have to exclude our first nations.

I hope the government will seriously consider amendments that will be put when the resolution comes before the House after the committee hearings.

1720

Mr. McLean: I am pleased to have the opportunity to address this Legislature today on a matter of great concern to me and, I know, of great concern to many other members here at Queen's Park and to the people they represent throughout Ontario. As a Canadian citizen living in Ontario, I have serious doubts, I have grave concerns and I have a great many questions about the Meech Lake constitutional accord, which has been considered in the federal Parliament in Ottawa as well as in numerous provincial legislatures across the country.

Like many of my colleagues here in the Legislature, I consider this to be a worrisome document which usurps the democratic process in Ontario and Canada. I am extremely uneasy about the Meech Lake constitutional accord because I fear it will have numerous unfortunate consequences for our people and the future of this country and this province. This matter is far too important to be simply rubber-stamped by the provincial legislatures across Canada. After all, if the Meech Lake accord cannot be amended now, how on earth can we honestly hope it can be altered for the better in the future?

The Meech Lake accord proposes to bring the province of Quebec into the Canadian family. I applaud that move because Canada is not whole unless it has all its parts functioning on an equal basis. However, I firmly believe we should preserve that applause for a later time, because the Meech Lake accord does not treat each province of Canada on an equal basis. That saddens and worries me a great deal.

The major grey area of the Meech Lake accord that concerns me the most is the section dealing with Quebec's distinct society. I would like someone to tell me if clause 2(1)(a) provides legal grounds for the minority language group in each province to go to the Supreme Court and have it impose minority-language rights and services legislation upon each province. Just what does subsection 2(1)(b), "the recognition that Quebec constitutes within Canada a distinct society," mean to Ontario and the rest of Canada?

The obvious answer to me would be that, owing to its French culture and language, it constituted a distinct society. Logically, if Quebec constitutes a distinct society within Canada because of its French language and culture, then the rest of Canada must constitute a second distinct society because of its English language and culture. I cannot in all good conscience consider enshrining in our Constitution two separate groups of Canadians or, for that matter, two separate Canadas.

Instead, as Canadians, we must be sufficiently flexible and tolerant to provide for a Canada that respects anglophones and francophones equally and fairly. I cannot support bringing Quebec back into the Canadian family if that means special treatment for only one member of that family. As far as I am concerned, special treatment will only lead to mistrust, intolerance, jealousy and hard feelings among the other members of our Canadian family.

The Meech Lake accord is flawed, in my humble opinion, in that it completely ignores the rights of Canada's women and native people. That fact alone should give enough concern to our first ministers that they send the accord back to the drawing-board; or, at the very least, we in Ontario should come up with some suitable amendments to remedy this serious affront to the women and native people of Canada.

Are we to believe that, under the Meech Lake accord, the women and the native people of Canada will cease to exist? Are we to believe they do not have a rightful place in our Canadian society? I think not, and I am sure my colleagues in this Legislature find such a thought to be thoroughly distasteful and disagreeable. The Meech Lake accord leaves Canada's women and native people out in the cold. It is time we bring them in by amending this document.

The Meech Lake accord relegates Canada's territories to the role of bystander in any future development in this country. Their role in intergovernmental relations and in determining their own future has been seriously diminished, if not wiped out altogether, under the Meech Lake accord. The accord would give every Canadian province a veto over the creation of new provinces and the extension of provincial boundaries into the territories, but it does not provide for any role for the territorial governments. The federal government says it will speak for the territories on these matters.

Prior to 1982, the creation of new provinces had been under exclusive federal control. Currently, under the 1982 constitutional changes, it

is subject to a seven-province, 50 per cent approval formula, which was strongly opposed by the territories in 1982. The further change in the Meech Lake accord totally destroys their chances of ever achieving provincial status, should they ever wish to do so.

The territories' current court challenge to the Meech Lake accord seeks retention of the seven-province, 50 per cent formula, because they see it as the lesser of two evils. I cannot help but agree. History tells us that this country's 10 provinces were all given the opportunity and choice to join in the creation of Canada, and I believe the territories should be given that same opportunity and choice, should they opt for provincial status at some future date.

Another area of concern to me is that this Meech Lake accord appears to usurp the democratic process in that it appears to give judges the power to impose legislation upon provincial governments without giving the people a say in the matter. Every government enacting any piece of legislation should be able to be held accountable for that legislation by the voting public. If this accord, with its vague wording and ambiguous meanings, is entrenched, the courts will have not only to interpret but also to define legislative intent and consequences as well.

We in this Legislature were elected by the people. We are accountable to those very same people. Judges are appointed and are, therefore, officials who cannot be held accountable by the electorate for their actions. A judge's purpose is to interpret laws enacted by elected representatives like my colleagues in this Legislature and other provincial legislatures who are accountable to the public. It is up to the politicians to enact laws, and it is not the purpose, duty or responsibility of judges to do our work for us.

The Meech Lake accord contains numerous serious flaws. These flaws must be corrected now, before this document is etched in stone. It should be sent back to the drawing-board, but if our federal politicians refuse to make the necessary corrections, then it is up to us to do their work for them by putting forth suitable amendments.

The Meech Lake accord should not contain a distinct society clause for Quebec. It should enshrine rights for women and native people; it should strengthen the role of the territories in the areas of intergovernmental relations and in determining their own future; and it should not allow judges to impose legislation upon the provinces.

We need more time and a great deal of debate in the elected legislatures of Canada before all the kinks in this accord are straightened out. We will straighten out those kinks if we put party politics aside for the benefit of all Ontarians and all Canadians.

I ask my colleagues in this Legislature to be ruled by principles when it comes to amending the Meech Lake accord, and not by politics. We must all refrain from sticking each other with political knives. We must form a united front to ensure that all Canadians get an accord that does not threaten their rights, their distinctions or their freedoms. We must work together in a sincere spirit of co-operation at a time when rubber-stamping will just not do.

1730

It is the duty and the responsibility and the purpose of my colleagues in this Legislature and all provincial legislatures throughout Canada to suggest amendments we can live with. After all, we are going to have to live with this Meech Lake accord for a long time.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank you for the opportunity to be very brief in putting a few words on the record of my concern with regard to the Meech Lake accord.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I would like to take a few minutes, if I might, to speak on this resolution.

In 1981, I was a member of our select committee on constitutional reform with James Renwick, the member for Riverdale at that time. We travelled the country and listened to the views of legislators in other parts of the country about the development of constitutional change at that stage.

It has always struck me—it struck me at that time and it strikes me again now—that we deal with constitutional change in this country in a very bizarre way. It is as if it is such a dry and intellectual matter that even common legislators in the provinces should not have a major impact on constitutional decisions. I am pleased to see here the government House leader who also served on that committee. It was a great education for many of us.

At that time, we had the Parliament of Canada making decisions and provinces and legislators individually not really feeling like they had a great deal of control over the agenda themselves. Now, this time around, we actually have the strange situation of 11 leaders gathering together and treating this sort of like a labour relations matter. By the process of continual discussion and negotiation through the evening hours, when people get tired and want to have some kind of

resolution, they came up with the Meech Lake accord which the rest of us now, we are told, one way or another are supposed to fall in line with. We are not to use our role as sovereign legislators to have an impact on what may be one of the most important things to affect our country in a long time.

It is ironic. If you think about it, there are many people who have sat in this Legislature who have never had a chance to discuss the constitutional future of their country and have never had a chance to be there at a moment in time when their economic sovereignty was being threatened by something like the free trade pact. We have both of those things happening to us as legislators, but we are being asked, it almost seems, in both cases to sit back and not take action, to follow party lines and to believe that somehow we should feel constrained in terms of the amendments we might wish to proffer.

As somebody who has been in favour of special status for Quebec since about 1963, often at odds with people in my own party about that over the many years, I find it strange and somewhat aggravating to have to get up and be defensive about my support for the inclusion of Quebec back in the Constitution now. I have to start off as other speakers, my leader and the member for Algoma, have done to say, "Look, of course we favour reconciliation with Quebec and that is vital to us," and then use "but" and "however" as if somehow we have been put in this position of almost being blackmailed around the idea that if you have any problems which you consider to be as significant with this Meech Lake accord as the notion of the importance of the reconciliation of Quebec, then somehow you are being disloyal to the future of Canada.

I refuse to accept that personally, given my own record on this issue over the years; and I refuse to have that dumped on a party like ours which has also been so much in the forefront of recognizing the distinction of Quebec society within Canada. I just want to dismiss that out of hand and say that of course that is our position.

But if the members think about their roles now, as individuals elected to deal with a constitutional matter, a constitutional matter which I would suggest to them has not ever found its way into the party policies, in strict terms, of any of the parties here assembled, it is not something writ so much in stone that they cannot exercise their own individual volition at this time.

I think the members have to look very seriously at what the Attorney General was

asking in his last few questions today about the seriousness we should give to looking at amendments. I think he was putting them forward on the notion that we should not bring them forth frivolously. Not only that, but probably there is no call that is strong enough for an amendment, in his view, to risk any potential rupture of the accord. I would suggest to the members that there is potentially that serious a conflict in terms of constitutional reform, that we, and they as individual members, should look at it very seriously.

The first point to which I will just refer is the speech from the member for Algoma. Surely, if the members think of themselves now as people who can have a hand in the construction of our future Constitution, they as legislators and we as a collective in the Legislature have the right to state our opinion as a sovereign assembly. It is incomprehensible to me how we can have a reconciliation with Quebec at the expense of not having a reconciliation with our first nations.

The member for Algoma made the point extremely clearly that that is contradictory. It is not possible for us to do it on those terms. If we do it, then I really do think, although he was nervous about saying it, we have to look at what may well be a very racist underlying of that decision. It is not Quebec that has been excluded from the Constitution for its entire history. It has been just a few years that it has not been party to the most recent decision about the repatriation. Our first nations have been excluded from our Constitution from the very beginning of this country. If there is a need for reconciliation, it should surely have at least equal status with that which we would give Quebec.

The second point I want to raise and spend a little bit of time on is what is being done to the north. I think it may be hard for us, as central Canadians, to understand this. But if the members consider what it must be like to be living in the Yukon or the Northwest Territories at this point and to understand that, for the first time in our history, Prince Edward Island will have an absolute veto over whether the Yukon or the Northwest Territories will ever be brought into Confederation, they have to see just how alienating that is going to be for an area of the country which already feels it is not receiving the kinds of rights it deserves.

If we think about the territories as a federal institution, then that, perhaps, is an easy thing to deal with. But if we think of these areas as potential provinces, much as Saskatchewan, Manitoba or Alberta were many years ago, and

even our own immigrant and recent society, members can surely see how offensive it is to have them suddenly shut out of any real possibility of entering Confederation as full provinces.

Not that they are requesting this: I think it is really important to remember that. That is not what the people from the Yukon and the Northwest Territories are saying at the moment. They do not want to enter tomorrow, but they do not believe there should be the need for total unanimity for them to enter Confederation. When Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta came in, they came in as acts of federal Parliament. That is all it took. There was no requirement for any of the other provinces to have any say in it.

1740

In recent years, there was a decision in the 1982 agreement that there should now be involvement of seven out of 10 or over 50 per cent of the population of the country, having some say in terms of new provinces. Most members probably do not realize that before Meech Lake was actually decided upon, the agenda of the first ministers had been changed in such a way as to try to eliminate that step, to say that even the seven out of 10 was inappropriate. That was what was on the agenda. All of a sudden after Meech Lake and the all-night sessions, that disappeared and all of a sudden it takes unanimity.

I suggest to the members again, as legislators in an assembly which has sovereign rights in a province which has developed an awful lot of power from its early days, to figure what it must be like to be sitting in the assembly in the Yukon right now and understanding that we are, if we sit passively by, agreeing to the fact that it should be excluded for ever.

What a very short-sighted notion of our nation that is. I say to the members that there is an awful lot of pressure on us as a Legislature just to go through perfunctory hearings, hear what people have to say about it, have the opposition parties move amendments, defeat each of them because we cannot jeopardize the agreement and let it go at that.

Our lives are fairly short as politicians. Our institutions go on, for ever one would hope, but at least for a long time. The average stay of a member in this House is about six years. I do not know what the members think their contribution is going to be in the period of time they are here, whether they are here for one term, two terms or more, but this is a moment in history when

members should not just sit passively by and allow themselves to believe they do not have the right and in fact the obligation to try to have an impact on the constitutional future of our country.

I ask all the members to understand that this should not be an exercise that they go through, but should be one of the most important things they will ever have a chance to participate in as legislators. They should do so to the full, and when amendments are proffered they should deal with them on their merits for what they consider personally to be the best future for our country.

Mr. Runciman: I too appreciate the opportunity to participate in this important debate. As the House leader indicated earlier, we are going to support the motion to establish what essentially appears to be a toothless committee. In any event, we hope it will at least serve the purpose of conclusively exposing some of the flaws in this agreement. If it can do that, it will indeed be worth while.

Interjections.

Mr. Runciman: I have some concerns about the agreement but I will wait until the conversations subside. I cannot even hear myself.

The Deputy Speaker: The member for Leeds-Grenville has the floor.

Mr. Runciman: The member for Algoma is—

Mr. B. Rae: No, it is not. It is the member for Nipissing.

Mr. Runciman: Oh. The member for Nipissing and the member for Algoma.

The Deputy Speaker: Please proceed, sir.

Mr. Runciman: I should have known better.

Mr. Laughren: He is going to be your next leader. We are going to speak to him.

Mr. Runciman: You never know.

As I was saying, I do have some concerns but I tend to want to support the accord if for no other reason than a review of the people opposing it, people like Jim Coutts, John Roberts, Jean Chrétien and, worst of all, Pierre Elliott Trudeau, the most disastrous Prime Minister ever visited upon this country. If the accord does not agree with Trudeau's vision of Canada, it cannot be all bad.

My point is that virtually all the opponents of this agreement are Liberals and I suspect many in the large government caucus also oppose the accord but lack the intestinal fortitude of the member for Downsview (Mr. Leone) and the member for Etobicoke-Humber. The Premier entered into this agreement with undue haste,

probably for a couple of reasons, number one being his long-term federal aspirations, and he is obviously going to drag his trained-seal caucus along with him.

I note that some of the Liberal opponents are suggesting that this accord may sound the death-knell to universal day care. If that is the case, again, it cannot be all bad; this may halt our slide into the socialist abyss.

All that aside, I do have some concerns, primarily the designation of Quebec as a distinct society. I wholeheartedly agree with the member for Etobicoke-Humber that Canada has many distinct societies and that we should be defending the cultural and linguistic distinctions of all provinces, not just one.

The long-suffering anglophone minority in Quebec—which I think represents about 18 per cent of the population, versus Ontario's francophone population of five per cent as a contrast—that minority is once again abandoned by all political parties tripping over themselves in an attempt to appease Quebec. There is no doubt that Quebec's Bill 101, which is profoundly discriminatory towards anglophones, receives a boost of legitimacy from the accord, and that is shameful—nothing less.

I also have concerns with the Senate appointment provisions. I am one who supports the idea of an elected Senate. The Premier says that the accord is a start on Senate reform. Unfortunately, it is also probably the end of Senate reform.

Supreme Court appointees: Again, I think we are moving in the wrong direction. We are going to have some serious cases before the courts in the next number of years. They are going to deal with the regional questions. I think the fact that we are going to have appointees to the Supreme Court sitting, really, because of their connections, if you will, with the various provincial governments is going to perhaps have a negative impact on the decision-making of that body. So I also want to express my concerns in that respect.

I agree with the member for Etobicoke-Humber with respect to his comments regarding veto powers. I think he makes reference to the number of constituents in his riding numbering more than the number of residents of Prince Edward Island. One has to ask if the veto-power provisions of the accord are really serving the national interest. I think not.

Several members have mentioned the role of territorial governments and their aspirations to future provincehood being denied by the accord. Until 1982 the entry of a new province into Confederation was a decision between the

federal government and the people affected, but with Meech Lake every single province would have to agree. At the same time, residents of the Northwest Territories or the Yukon are given absolutely no say.

Approval of the existing provinces was not required when Prince Edward Island joined Confederation in 1873, or Alberta in 1905, or Newfoundland in 1949. So why should every Canadian have a voice in the territories' fate, except those who live there? I think that is an important question.

One dealing with the territorial question again has to wonder, based on the constitutional discussions that went on a number of months ago with respect to the territories, if indeed the motives behind some of the western provinces in their efforts to exclude the territories from the Constitution are appropriate. I think there is a feeling within the territories that a number of the provinces, perhaps up to four, have aspirations to swallow the territories at some future date, and the Yukon. By not providing for their aspirations to attain provincehood within the accord, they are indeed serving their own purposes and not the residents of those areas of this country.

1750

The accord obviously represents a different view of Canada in terms of what Mr. Trudeau and many members of the Liberal Party across this country understand as a view of Canada. Mr. Trudeau's is one of scepticism. There is no question about that. Despite its flaws, this accord really is looking towards the provinces to sustain, on their honour, commitments to nationhood. I am one who would opt to take that approach rather than that of Mr. Trudeau, Mr. Coutts, Mr. Roberts and so on, which is one of scepticism.

Like the member who spoke before me, I hope the government will entertain amendments, which I am sure will not be frivolous but will be well-meaning and certainly will be put forward with the best interests of all Canadians at heart.

I have just been passed a note, "Can you talk until adjournment?"

We might review some of the points brought forward by the member—

Mr. Laughren: That did not come from your own colleagues.

Mr. McCague: From Pierre.

Mr. Runciman: Yes, from Pierre.

We might put on the record some of the points brought forward in an article in the *Toronto Star*, a well-known journal, by the member for Etobicoke-Humber. I would remind some of the

other members over there, prick their consciences perhaps, to stand up for liberalism. I think it was John Munro—what a prestigious Liberal—who was saying, “The vision of Meech Lake is fundamentally antithetical to the view traditionally espoused by the Liberal Party.” That is from no less a Liberal than John Munro. That should really bother the members opposite and to my left.

The member for Etobicoke-Humber was also indicating, in terms of the federal courts, that the notion of federal and provincial jurisdictions must be sharpened. He is indicating again his concerns about what I outlined in terms of what might happen in the courts in the future with respect to appointees coming from recommendations from the various provincial premiers.

He also expresses the concern that any province opting out of federal programs gets its share of federal program funds if it carries on a program compatible with the national objectives. Again, this talks about something like extra billing, which is rather strange with respect to the position this member took in the extra billing debate, as many of the members will recall.

He is talking about provinces being able to opt out of the extra billing requirements that were essentially placed on them by the federal government in terms of their fund transfer powers. As many members will recall, under the Canada Health Act, I believe, the federal government was withholding transfers unless the various provincial governments complied in terms of extra billing restrictions. This is a point that the member is making, and I mentioned earlier the question of universal day care.

Again, as a good Liberal he is making the point—

Mr. Wildman: That is a contradiction in terms.

Mr. Runciman: Yes, the member is right.

In any event, an agreement like Meech Lake could make a major difference.

The member goes on to talk about legislating English in Manitoba. It is hardly incompatible with legislating French in Quebec, and both are quite compatible with the national objective of linguistic enrichment.

Here is the issue baldly stated: Should a province have the power in a federal state to opt out of federal programs and get the money anyway? Should it have the power to choose the best side of every issue? Should Canada be balkanized into a community of provinces who take whatever portion of the federal pie they choose? What is meant by a “distinct society”?

Every province contains many distinct societies, each with customs, rights and perhaps privileges not enshrined in any Constitution. Few of the distinct societies are recognized by law, much less recognized in our Constitution, nor need they be. Should United Empire Loyalists have been enshrined as a distinct society in Upper Canada? We might want to talk about that one.

By the terms of Meech Lake, multicultural and aboriginal rights must be shored up against this “distinct society” provision.

The reference to multiculturalism also brings us to a position taken by the member for Downsview who, I think, was the first member of the government caucus to express his opposition: “Liberal MPP Set to Defy Peterson.” The member’s primary concern is in respect to the protection of multicultural rights. His colleagues the member for Lawrence (Mr. Cordiano) and the member for Yorkview (Mr. Polsinelli) have indicated they do not share those concerns. Of course, they, unlike the member for Downsview, may still hold some aspirations to become members of the executive council at some future date. Who knows?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Their chances are about as good as mine.

Mr. Runciman: The member can always cross the floor. Look at the member who is now the Minister of Correctional Services (Mr. Ramsay). I would suggest the opportunity is there.

In any event, this gentleman has indicated his very valid concerns about the weakening of multicultural rights. He again is one of the few sitting members in this Legislature on the government side who has indicated a willingness to speak up for what he believes in, rather than simply following strict party lines and adhering to the party whip. We on this side have to admire him for doing that, although we may not agree. We admire him. We admire the member for Etobicoke-Humber for his stand on this issue and the stand he very courageously took on extra billing last year.

On motion by Mr. Runciman, the debate was adjourned.

Hon. Mr. Conway: Recognizing that it is very nearly six of the clock, I would like to indicate the business for tomorrow.

Before I do so, just as a matter of explanation, I paid close attention to the comments made earlier this afternoon by the Leader of the Opposition and I want the record to show that there was a communication from the government

to the whip's office in the New Democratic Party, indicating that today, because of the first ministers' conference convening in the city of Toronto, the Premier would not be able to stay beyond question period and that he would be making a ministerial statement about the establishment of this committee. I just want the record to show that communication was made. It is certainly our intention to be as helpful in these communications as we can be, as the member for Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston) knows.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Mr. Conway: I want to indicate that the member for Leeds-Grenville (Mr. Runciman) has adjourned the debate. Tomorrow, after routine proceedings, this debate, the debate on government notice of motion 5, the motion establishing the select committee on constitutional reform, will continue and that will be followed by the debate on interim supply, to be followed by the debate on the Ontario Loan Act.

The House adjourned at 6 p.m.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*
(130 seats)

First Session, 34th Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. Lincoln M. Alexander, PC, QC

Adams, Peter (Peterborough L)
Allen, Richard (Hamilton West NDP)
Ballinger, William G. (Durham-York L)
Beer, Charles (York North L)
Black, Kenneth H. (Muskoka-Georgian Bay L)
Bossy, Maurice L. (Chatham-Kent L)

Bradley, Hon. James J., Minister of the Environment (St. Catharines L)

Brandt, Andrew S. (Sarnia PC)
Breugh, Michael J. (Oshawa NDP)
Brown, Michael A. (Algoma-Manitoulin L)
Bryden, Marion (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
Callahan, Robert V. (Brampton South L)
Campbell, Sterling (Sudbury L)

Caplan, Hon. Elinor, Minister of Health (Orillia L)

Carrothers, Douglas A. (Oakville South L)
Charlton, Brian A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)
Chiarelli, Robert (Ottawa West L)
Cleary, John C. (Cornwall L)
Collins, Shirley (Wentworth East L)

Conway, Hon. Sean G., Minister of Mines (Renfrew North L)

Cooke, David R. (Kitchener L)
Cooke, David S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
Cordiano, Joseph (Lawrence L)
Cousens, W. Donald (Markham PC)
Cureatz, Sam L. (Durham East PC)

Curling, Hon. Alvin, Minister of Skills Development (Scarborough North L)

Daigeler, Hans (Nepean L)
Dietsch, Michael M. (St. Catharines-Brock L)

Eakins, Hon. John F., Minister of Municipal Affairs (Victoria-Haliburton L)

Edighoffer, Hon. Hugh A., Speaker (Perth L)
Elliot, R. Walter (Halton North L)

Elston, Hon. Murray J., Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Bruce L)

Epp, Herbert A. (Waterloo North L)
Eves, Ernie L. (Parry Sound PC)
Farnan, Michael (Cambridge NDP)
Faubert, Frank (Scarborough-Ellesmere L)
Fawcett, Joan M. (Northumberland L)
Ferraro, Rick E. (Guelph L)
Fleet, David (High Park-Swansea L)

Fontaine, Hon. René, Minister of Northern Development (Cochrane North L)

Fulton, Hon. Ed, Minister of Transportation (Scarborough East L)

Furlong, Allan W. (Durham Centre L)

Grandmaitre, Hon. Bernard C., Minister of Revenue (Ottawa East L)

Grier, Ruth A. (Etobicoke-Lakeshore NDP)
Haggerty, Ray (Niagara South L)
Hampton, Howard (Rainy River NDP)
Harris, Michael D. (Nipissing PC)
Hart, Christine E. (York East L)
Henderson, D. James (Etobicoke-Humber L)

Hošek, Hon. Chaviva, Minister of Housing (Oakwood L)

Jackson, Cameron (Burlington South PC)
Johnson, Jack (Wellington PC)
Johnston, Richard F. (Scarborough West NDP)
Kanter, Ron (St. Andrew-St. Patrick L)

Kerrio, Hon. Vincent G., Minister of Natural Resources (Niagara Falls L)

Keyes, Kenneth A. (Kingston and The Islands L)
Kozyra, Taras B. (Port Arthur L)

Kwinter, Hon. Monte, Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Wilson Heights L)

Laughren, Floyd (Nickel Belt NDP)
LeBourdais, Linda (Etobicoke West L)
Leone, Laureano (Downsview L)
Lipsett, Ron (Grey L)

Lupusella, Tony (Dovercourt L)
MacDonald, Keith (Prince Edward-Lennox L)
Mackenzie, Bob (Hamilton East NDP)
Mahoney, Steven W. (Mississauga West L)

Mancini, Hon. Remo, Minister without Portfolio (Essex South L)

Marland, Margaret (Mississauga South PC)
Martel, Shelley (Sudbury East NDP)

Matrundola, Gino (Willowdale L)
McCague, George R. (Simcoe West PC)
McClelland, Carman (Brampton North L)
McGuigan, James F. (Essex-Kent L)
McGuinty, Dalton J. (Ottawa South L)
McLean, Allan K. (Simcoe East PC)

McLeod, Hon. Lyn, Minister of Colleges and Universities (Fort William L)

Miclash, Frank (Kenora L)
Miller, Gordon I. (Norfolk L)
Morin, Gilles E. (Carleton East L)
Morin-Strom, Karl E. (Sault Ste. Marie NDP)

Munro, Hon. Lily O., Minister of Culture and Communications (Hamilton Centre L)
 Neumann, David E. (Brantford L)
 Nicholas, Cindy (Scarborough Centre L)
 Nixon, J. Bradford (York Mills L)
Nixon, Hon. Robert F., Deputy Premier, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics and Minister of Financial Institutions (Brant-Haldimand L)
 Offer, Steven (Mississauga North L)
O'Neil, Hon. Hugh P., Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Quinte L)
 O'Neill, Yvonne (Ottawa-Rideau L)
 Owen, Bruce (Simcoe Centre L)
Patten, Hon. Richard, Minister of Government Services (Ottawa Centre L)
 Pelissero, Harry E. (Lincoln L)
Peterson, Hon. David R., Premier and President of the Council and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (London Centre L)
 Philip, Ed (Etobicoke-Rexdale NDP)
Phillips, Hon. Gerry, Minister of Citizenship (Scarborough-Agincourt L)
 Poirier, Jean, Deputy Speaker and Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House (Prescott and Russell L)
 Pollock, Jim (Hastings-Peterborough PC)
 Polsinelli, Claudio (Yorkview L)
 Poole, Dianne (Eglinton L)
 Pope, Alan W. (Cochrane South PC)
 Pouliot, Gilles (Lake Nipigon NDP)
 Rae, Bob (York South NDP)
Ramsay, Hon. David, Minister of Correctional Services (Timiskaming L)
 Ray, Michael C. (Windsor-Walkerville L)
 Reville, David (Riverdale NDP)
 Reyecraft, Douglas R. (Middlesex L)
Riddell, Hon. Jack, Minister of Agriculture and Food (Huron L)
 Roberts, Marietta L. D., Deputy Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House (Elgin L)

Runciman, Robert W. (Leeds-Grenville PC)
 Ruprecht, Tony (Parkdale L)
Scott, Hon. Ian G., Attorney General (St. George-St. David L)
 Smith, David W. (Lambton L)
Smith, Hon. E. Joan, Solicitor General (London South L)
 Sola, John (Mississauga East L)
Sorbara, Hon. Gregory S., Minister of Labour (York Centre L)
 South, Larry (Frontenac-Addington L)
 Sterling, Norman W. (Carleton PC)
 Stoner, Norah (Durham West L)
 Sullivan, Barbara (Halton Centre L)
 Swart, Mel (Welland-Thorold NDP)
Sweeney, Hon. John, Minister of Community and Social Services (Kitchener-Wilmot L)
 Tatham, Charlie (Oxford L)
 Van Horne, Ronald G. (London North L)
 Velshi, Murad (Don Mills L)
 Villeneuve, Noble (Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry PC)
Ward, Hon. Christopher C., Minister of Education (Wentworth North L)
 Wildman, Bud (Algoma NDP)
Wilson, Hon. Mavis, Minister without Portfolio (Dufferin-Peel L)
 Wiseman, Douglas J. (Lanark-Renfrew PC)
Wong, Hon. Robert C., Minister of Energy (Fort York L)
Wrye, Hon. William, Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Windsor-Sandwich L)

*The alphabetical list of members appears in each issue. Lists of the members of the executive council, parliamentary assistants and members of committees, brought up to date as necessary, are published in Hansard in the first and last issues of each session and on the first sitting day of each month.

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